

## **Putting Christ First: Thanksgiving & Prayer**

*Colossians 1:2b-12*

### **Paul Gives Thanks (v. 2b-8)**

- Paul starts with a standard greeting (v. 2b)
  - Grace: Greek greeting
  - Peace: Hebrew greeting
- Paul thanks God for the Church's:
  - Faith in Jesus (v. 4): Faith that has Jesus Christ as its ultimate reference point
  - Love for God's people (v. 4, 8)
    - Based in the hope we have in God's work in eternity (v. 4)
    - And the Spirit at work in us now (v. 8)
- This message of u is presented in the Gospel
  - The truth about Jesus
  - Which was brought to the Colossians by Epaphras

### **Paul's Prayer (v. 9-12)**

- He prays for the Church to have knowledge of God's will
  - So that we may live in a way that pleases God
    - Doing good
    - Growing to know\* Him better
      - About a relationship
    - Growing to rely on His strength more
      - So that we may endure hardships with patience
    - Being thankful
      - Because of our understanding of what God *has done* and *is doing* for us through Christ
        - We are now heirs with Christ
        - Part of God's family!

### **So What?**

- Is our life defined by the truth of the Gospel?
- Are we living in a way that pleases God?
  - Not through our strength
  - But through a growing relationship with Jesus

***Meditation Verse: Colossians 1:10***