

The Power of the Gospel (Phil. 1:3-14)

I. The Witness of the Gospel (3-6)

A. God is to be Thanked for the Believer's Witness (3-4)

1. Paul is thankful for the Colossians (3)
 - a. He continually thanks God for them
 - b. He continually prays for them
2. Paul is thankful for the Gospel's work in the Colossians (4)
 - a. He thanked God after hearing of their faith
 - b. He thanked God for the love they showed
 - i. God produces and grows faith
 - ii. God produces and grows love
 - evidences of salvation
 - loving the brethren
 - trusting in Christ
 - God is worthy of praise for all

B. The Gospel Produces the Believer's Witness (5-6)

1. The hope of the Gospel manifested in them (5)
 - a. The hope is the imperishable salvation
 - b. The hope is understood from the gospel
 - i. They heard the word of truth
 - ii. They received hope from it
 - iii. They lived in love and faith on account of this hope
2. The Fruit of the Gospel manifests in the world (6)
 - a. The gospel came to them as the rest of the world
 - i. It bears fruit in the world
 - ii. It spreads through the world
 - b. The gospel is God's power for salvation
3. The work of the Gospel Begins Immediately (6b)
 - a. It grew and bore fruit in them
 - b. It grew from the first day
 - i. When they heard the gospel
 - ii. When they knew the grace of God
 - iii. When they understood the truth of Grace

II. The Growth of the Gospel (7-11)

A. The Gospel Spreads by Men (7-8)

1. God used Epaphras to transform the Colossians
 - a. Epaphras Brought them the gospel
 - i. God uses means
 - ii. God uses men
 - iii. God uses us
 - iv. God gives us the responsibility
 - b. Epaphras Testified to the Colossians' transformation
 - c. Epaphras was a fellow slave of Christ
 - d. Epaphras was a faithful minister of the gospel
2. God will use you to transform men

B. The Gospel Spreads Inside Men (9-11)

1. God used Paul to pray for the Colossians (9a)
2. Paul prayed for the continued growth in the gospel (9b-11)
3. Growing in the Gospel
 - a. Growing in the knowledge of His will
 - i. It means growing in spiritual wisdom
 - ii. It means growing in spiritual understanding
 - b. Growing in a life pleasing to God (10-11) "live worth and pleasing to him"
 - i. Bearing fruit in every good deed (10)
 - ii. Growing in the knowledge of God
 - not just academic or intellect
 - personal / relational knowledge
 - iii. Being strengthened with God's power (11)
 - according to his glory and might
 - leaning more and more on Him
 - strengthened in Him, not us
 - iv. Empowered to manifest new life
 - to display patience
 - to display steadfastness
 - to display this life joyfully
 - v. Growing in our worship (11a)
 - c. Growing as believers is growing in the gospel

III. The Promise of the Gospel (12-14)

A. What inspires growth in the gospel

1. Promised share in our inheritance
2. Deliverance from the power of darkness
3. Transferred into Kingdom of the son
4. Redemption and forgiveness of Sin