

STUDIES IN COLOSSIANS
WHAT SHOULD A CHURCH BE FAMOUS FOR?
Colossians 1:3-8

1. FAITH SOUNDLY DEFINED (3-4)

³ *We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,*
⁴ *since we heard of your **faith** in Christ Jesus ...*

- * This is not blind faith.
- * This is faith based upon facts. (John 20:31)
 John wrote his Gospel so that his readers might examine the facts as to who Jesus is and then to come to an intellectual conclusion, which would lead them to put their trust into Jesus and receive eternal life.
- * This faith is about the object of their faith.
 The church in Colossae had placed their faith in a specific object
 - Their faith was in Christ Jesus.

2. LOVE SPLENDIDLY DISTRIBUTED (4)

"..and of the love that you have for all the saints"

This word translated "love" is the word AGAPE.
 It means to maintain an attitude of care and actions to go along with it.
 It means to want the best for others, even if they are your enemies.
 It means to accept others, even if I don't understand them. (John 13:35)

- * Love does not mean that we agree on everything.
- * Love means that we still care for each other, want the best for each other and accept each other even if we don't agree.
- * Love is the fruit of faith and it is the proof of its genuineness. (Galatians 5:6; 1 John 3:14)

3. HOPE SECURELY DEPOSITED (5)

"..because of the hope laid up for you in heaven."

- * Hope is not wishful thinking.
- * Hope is the certain anticipation of things to come in the future, based upon the promises of God.

The Christian lives in the hope of the promises that God has made to him.
 The HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION: (John 11:25; 1 Peter 1:3)
 The HOPE OF THE RETURN OF JESUS: (John 14:3; Acts 1:10-11)
 The HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE: (John 3:16; Titus 1:2)
 WE LIVE IN HOPE: (Romans 15:13)

BUT HOW DID THEY RECEIVED THIS HOPE? 5-8)

It came to them through the Gospel, the word of truth (v.5). Verse 6 speaks that there came a day when they heard the gospel. After hearing it, they came to understand God's grace in all its truth.
SOMEBODY TOLD THEM!

4. FRUIT STEADFASTLY DISPLAYED (5-6)

5....Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing