

# sermon notes

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April 19, 2026 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church | **Preeminence**  
“The Kind of Church Paul Thanks God For” | **Colossians 1:3–8**

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## Five Things to Thank God for in a Local Church:

- 1) Its \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel (1:3-4a)
  
- 2) Its \_\_\_\_\_ for brothers and sisters (1:4b)
  
- 3) Its \_\_\_\_\_ laid up in heaven (1:5a)
  
- 4) Its \_\_\_\_\_ among saints (1:5b–6)
  
- 5) Its faithful \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (1:7–8)

## Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

### GO DEEPER

Read Colossians 1:1–8. How do we know that the people who made up the Colossian church had experienced salvation through faith in Christ? How does Paul describe them in chapter 1? Is it possible to have a church full of unsaved people? Is it possible to have a “healthy church” full of unsaved people?

Discuss the five things listed above. Why are these items (the gospel, brotherly love, hope, fruit-bearing, and faithfulness) essential in a church? Why do they generate thankfulness in Paul’s prayers?

Paul mentions faith, hope, and love in Colossians 1:4–5. Why are those important virtues in the Christian life? Where are they repeated in Paul’s writings (see Rom 5:1–5; 1 Cor 13:13; 1 Thess 1:3, 5:8; Eph 1:15, 18; Gal 5:5–6)?

### GET PERSONAL

What does love for brothers and sisters in Christ look like? Give some examples from your own life. How have you shown this love to others? How has it been shown to you?

What does fruit-bearing in the Christian life look like? Give some examples from your own life. What are some examples you’ve noticed in the lives of others?

Epaphras is described by Paul as a “beloved fellow servant” and “a faithful minister” on behalf of the church in Colossae (1:7). How would people describe you and your work in the church? Would they use the word “faithful”? What about a “beloved fellow servant”? What does a person like that look like in a modern church?

### PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Paul begins this letter by listing a number of things he thanks God for in his prayers. How do you express thankfulness in your own prayers? Why is thankfulness important? Make a list of things that you are thankful for in your own life. Then make a list of things that you are thankful for in your church. Pray these out before the Lord.

### ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

What is the hope laid up in heaven for the Colossians? Why is this hope central to the gospel? How do we communicate this hope when we share Christ with others? What is the danger of an overrealized eschatology, and how does this compete with our heavenly hope?