

**HOW IS IT THAT LIVES ARE TRULY CHANGED?
UNDERSTANDING THE GRACE OF GOD IN TRUTH
COLOSSIANS 1:5b-8**

- I. *Review:* **PAUL AND TIMOTHY WERE SO THANKFUL FOR THE COLOSSIANS CHANGED LIVES:** Their changed lives in Christ brought thankful, continual prayer for them (3-5a)
- II. **PAUL AND TIMOTHY UNDERSTOOD HOW GOD CHANGED THEIR LIVES:** The Colossians had heard and understood the grace of God in truth, the Word of truth, the Gospel, having learned it from Epaphras, which resulted in truly changed lives (5b-8)
- A. **THE MESSAGE:** Paul's description of the gospel reveals its glorious message (5b, 6b)
1. It is **the Good News** (5b)
 2. It is **the Word of truth** (5b)
 3. It reveals **the grace of God in truth** (6b)
- B. **THE MEANS:** The Gospel is **delivered by God to us through men** (6a)
- C. **THE RESULT:** From day they heard and understand the Gospel, **it was constantly bearing fruit and growing in them** (6b-8)
1. **It continually bears fruit and grows in those who believed** (6b)
 2. **An illustration: Their own lives** (6b-8)
 - (a) They heard and understood the message and it was bearing fruit (6b)
 - (b) It was brought, spoken, and taught by a beloved, faithful servant, Epaphras (7-8a)
 - (c) Indeed, Epaphras testified of the fruit of the Spirit's love in them (8b)