

Colossians 1:3-4 – “We give thanks ...praying always for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints.”

THANKSGIVING FOR FAITH AND LOVE

Paul did not begin the Colossian church. He had never been there. Before he wrote this letter to them, he prayed for them. Not only did Paul pray for them, his ministry team prayed for them: “We give thanks...” Paul “always” gave thanks for them. The KJV says “in every prayer of mine.” Paul gave thanks for their faith in Jesus and their love of the saints. Love is a product of faith. “Add to your faith...love” (II Peter 1:5-7). Faith and love are hallmarks of Christianity. One without the other is incomplete. Each is necessary to the other. We can’t be all about faith if we aren’t all about love. We can’t be all about love if we aren’t all about faith. Love is a proof of faith. There are many “faith” ministries, but faith is not the identifying mark of a Christian. Love is. “They will know we are Christians by our love.” True faith in Christ produces love for His people. In the New Testament they were called The Way. In more recent times they were called Jesus People. When we see Jesus People, we should pray for them, and pray for them often. Let them know you are praying for them, and encourage them. Pray for their continuance and their success. Sometimes that is all we can do for them, but we can do that. There aren’t enough Jesus people around anymore.