

## **"Identity Crisis"** **Colossians 1:3-14**

1. Paul had never meet these Colossian believers but at the beginning of his letter, he gives thanks to God for them and a trilogy of virtues that he had heard about from Epaphras: their growing \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus; their \_\_\_\_\_ which they had for all the saints; because of the \_\_\_\_\_ laid up for them in heaven.

**Faith** is the soul looking UPWARD to God;  
**Love** looks OUTWARD to others;  
and **Hope** looks FORWARD to the future.

Which of these virtues does God need to strengthen in you today?

2. In verses 5-8, Paul also gives thanks to God for the Gospel.  
What two things was the Gospel doing in verse 6?

In one sentence, how would you define the good news of the Gospel?

3. Who did the Colossians learn the Gospel from (verse 7)?  
How is he described?

What did he do?

How did you receive the gospel of Christ? How is the reception of the gospel associated with your identity in Christ?

4. What was Paul's "reason" for praying in verse 9a? What was his request in the prayer in verse 9b? How does Paul's request speak to your identity in Christ?

5. What was the practical result Paul expected to be displayed in these believers in verse 10a?

6. What four things confirm we are living a God-pleasing life?

- \_\_\_\_\_ in every good work
- Increasing and growing in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God
- Being \_\_\_\_\_ with all power according to His glorious might for the attaining of steadfastness and patience
- Joyously \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father

7. What does living a God-pleasing life depend upon from verse 11? How does God's involvement in your "walk" speak to your identity in Christ?

8. What has God done in verse 12 that speaks to the reason for our joy and thanks to God?

9. What did it take for God to qualify you for His inheritance (verses 13-14)? What do these actions communicate about our identity in Christ? How do these truths affect your view of yourself? Of God?