

Sermon Text: Colossians 1:1-14 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, ² To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, ⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; ⁵ because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, ⁶ which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth; ⁷ as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸ who also declared to us your love in the Spirit. ⁹ For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; ¹⁰ that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

Sermon Theme: Fruit Bearing Christians

1. Cause for the giving of thanks to God

2. Reason for making supplication to God to bring about continued growth

In the name of Jesus Christ, who is the spiritual vine from whom we receive strength to produce Christian fruit, dear fellow redeemed;

Summer is a delightful time of year, as it is the fruit bearing season, with gardeners and truck farmers gathering in vegetables, orchard growers bringing in fruit from their trees, and farmers harvesting grain from their fields. This is a good time of year both for the growers and consumers. The growers enjoy the blessing of harvesting what God has enabled the soil to produce and consumers enjoy the benefit of eating the various foods God gives them for their health and strength.

In the spiritual realm of Christians, the fruit bearing season is not limited to a short period of time in a year or a brief segment in our lives. Rather, it is an ongoing season that continues throughout the span of our lives. The kind of fruit we are speaking of is walking in the paths of God out of Christian love. Scripture identifies fruits of the Spirit as being love, tender mercies, humility, meekness, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, longsuffering, bearing with one another, and forgiving one another.

This being said, as imperfect human beings we are sadly mindful of the fact that we are not always producing good fruit in our daily lives. Just as weeds spring up in our fields and gardens, so also bad fruit come out of our sin-corrupted hearts in the form of evil thoughts and desires, as well as uncaring comments and evil behavior.

As sensitive children of God we find this kind of fruit to be distasteful, because it is