

## Accept No Substitutes Believer Appreciation

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1. List two Biblical traits from verse 3 that Paul built into his life and which might indicate why God chose to use him so extensively. Can you think of a couple of verses that indicate how important these Christian virtues are?
2. Romans 1 (v. 18-32) tells us that a lack of thankfulness can lead to many worse sins. Explain why you think this is the case.
5. Paul expressed how thankful he was for these fellow brethren. Share with the group about fellow believers for whom you are thankful.
6. What does it mean to “bring forth fruit”? Name some “fruit” that should be growing in our lives as followers of Christ.

Paul directs his thanks to God; when is it appropriate to direct our thanks to others?

According to John 15:4, what does our spiritual fruit tell others about us?

3. Verses 4 and 5 list three things Paul was thankful for in regard to the Colossians.

*Faith -*  
*Love -*  
*Hope -*

What does a lack of spiritual fruit tell others about us?

4. Why does God want us to have a genuine, 1 Corinthians 13 “love for *all* the saints” (v. 4)?

Discuss ways that we can act biblically rather than react with fleshy responses.

7. From verses 7 & 8, who was Epaphras?

8. Discuss the importance of believers sharing reports of progress in the church.

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**Colossians 1: 3-8** <sup>3</sup>We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, <sup>4</sup>since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; <sup>5</sup>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, <sup>6</sup>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; <sup>7</sup>as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, <sup>8</sup>who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

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# Believer Appreciation

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**Monday**

Describe what you think it means to be “thankful.”

**Tuesday**

How hard is it to thank God and others for what they do for you? How frequently do you express it?

**Wednesday**

What sin do you tend to slip into when you’re unthankful? Can you see the importance of being thankful in that area and how can you concretely work on that?

**Thursday**

Love is tied to thankfulness, for we can’t genuinely love someone we’re not thankful for. Think of two or three people in your near circle of acquaintances. Who do you need to be more thankful for?

**Friday**

Would others say you regularly “bring forth fruit”? Which fruits? Which do you lack?

**Saturday**

“LORD, help us to be truly thankful, for in thankfulness we internalize Who You really are and what You’ve done for us. Thankfulness brings trials, failure, and doubt into perspective. We have a lot to be thankful for, even when life seems bleak.”

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