

First, Joy Over Souls (3-4)

- 1) Luke 15 → Pharisees & Scribes **Grumbled** → “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”
 - a) Jesus Tells Parable @ Man W/ 100 Sheep → Searches **Lost One** == **When Finds** == **Rejoices**—Party
 - b) **Think** of Someone **Who** You Know To Be **Lost** → That == Give **Great Joy** If **Came** To Faith In Xp
- 2) **(3)** In Paul’s Typical Style → **Giving** Thanks & Praise To God!! → Expressing **Heart** of Gratitude & Joy
 - a) Important **Section** In Most Letters → **Instructive** For Us → Can Learn **What** Makes Paul “**Tick**”
 - b) Get Glimpse **What** Gave Paul Joy → **What** Brought Him To His Knees in Gratitude
- 3) Paul’s Joy & Gratitude **Expressed** In Vs. 3-8 → **(3)** Since Heard @ You **(8)** Made Known To Us
 - a) What We Glimpse == Pauls’ **Passion** For Souls → **Heart** For Lost → **For** Church & Kingdom
 - b) As See **What** Excites Paul → Should Challenge & Encourage Us To Nurture A Heart Like Jesus’
- 4) Always **Thank God** the Father of our Lord Jesus Xp → In NT No Longer **Called** God of Abe—Issac—Jacob
 - a) They Have Been **Superseded** == All That Israel Was == **Summed Up** In Jesus Xp == **Fuller** Revelation
- 5) **(4)** When Prays → Part of His Prayer == Always Thanks God For Gracious Work Among Colossians
 - a) 1st Thing See == Paul’s **Joy** Over Souls → Ever Since **Heard** of Their Faith == **Cause** For Worship
 - b) News @ People Paul Didn’t Know From Church Didn’t Plant → Still **Generated** Gratitude & Joy
 - c) Luke 15:6-7—“*Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.*” → Every Time Someone Turns From **Darkness** To Light == **Should** Make Hearts Sing
- 6) So **When** Sits Down To Pray → Father, Thank You For Turning **Hearts** To Xp → **Bldg** Your Church
 - a) 2 Tim. 2:10—Makes Paul Tick “*I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory*” → **God’s People** Saved & Gathered = **His Passion**

Second, Joy In the Gospel (4-6) Listen To Him

- 1) **Hear It?** → Gospel—Word of Truth == **Came to You**—Heard—Understood—Whole World **Increasing**

- 2) **Passion For Souls** → **Spills Over To Gospel** → **Means By Which God Saves & Gathers His People**
- a) Rom. 1:16—“I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” → Not Ashamed → No == **Loves It** → Excited @ It—Proclaims == **Prays Spirit Boldness**
- 3) **Calls Gospel** == Word of Truth → Not A Truth == The Truth → **Word** Governs All of Creation & Life **John 1**
- a) **See Clearly When** Get Down To V. 15-23 → **Jesus Lord—Creator—Sustainer & King**
- 4) Marks of **Gospel Coming In Power** == Faith (4)—Hope (5)—Love (4) == **Summary of All Gospel Fruit**
- 5) When Gospel Comes In Power == Produces These 3 Fruits In This Order
- a) Faith In Jesus As the Christ == Son of God → Savior of World == As Lord & King
- b) Faith What He Did → Did For Me == In His Death & Resurrection == My Sins == Forgiven
- 6) **(5)** Faith In Jesus == Gives Us Hope & Future == (27) Xp In You == Hope of Glory
- a) **(12)** God Made Them To Share In Inheritance of Saints In Light == Laid Up == Future—Certain
- b) Our **Shared Hope & Future** == Inheritance of Saints Together → Produces Love For Each Other
- 7) Genuine Faith & Hope == Demonstrated In Love For **All Saints** → **Every Xpian** == Cleansed & Set Apart
- a) Love For Saints!! == We Are Family → Special Love For Body of Christ →
- b) Talked @ How Concrete—Specific—Practical—Sacrificial Biblical Love Is In **Community of Grace**
- 8) Paul Takes **Joy In Seeing** Gospel’s **Power** → Producing True Fruits In Faith—Hope & Love

Third, Joy In the Kingdom (6)

- 1) **(6)** Came To You → But Indeed In Whole World == **Bearing Fruit & Increasing** == In Same Way
- a) Excites Paul == Power of Gospel **Turning Hearts To Jesus Xp** In Whole World → **Places Never** Been
- 2) Paul Planted Churches In Laodicea—Ephesus—Half Dozen Other Towns == **Witnessed Conversions**
- a) Converts Like Epaphras → **Shared Gospel—People Believed—Church Built—Kingdom Advanced**
- 3) **Jesus Building His Church** @ Gates of Hell == Gospel & Kingdom Advancing To Ends of Earth
- a) This Exciting To Paul → Thankful For **Every Bit of Fruit—Every Increase—Every Advance**

- 4) **Gospel** Still Bearing Fruit & Increasing → Has Been For Thousands of Years
- a) Still **Bearing** Fruit & Increasing → **Waned** In West → But In South & East == Advancing & Increasing
- b) So Much == Only Way Other Religions **Able** To Resist Advance of Gospel == W/ Violence—Persecution
- c) India 1986 → Great Amount of Religious Freedom == Gospel **Bearing Fruit** Esp. In Lower & Outcasts
- d) **Rising** Persecution—Violence—Gov't Crackdown == To Try **To Stop** Advance & Increase of Gospel
- e) Same In Islam → **Keep** Members → **By** Persecuting & Killing **Anyone** Preaches Gospel—Converts
- 5) Passion For Global Increase & Fruitfulness of Gospel & Kingdom == GO Events **Should Be** Packed

Fourth, Joy In the Messenger (7)

- 1) **(7) How Beautiful Feet** == You Heard **Gospel** From Epaphras == **Special** To Me & **Special** To You
- a) Our Beloved Fellow-Servant → And Faithful Minister of Christ To You ==
- b) Paul Had Deep Affection for Epaphras == Loved Him As Brother == Ministered To Paul & Church
- c) Phlm. 1:23—“*Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus*” → W/ Paul → Shares Suffering & Needs
- d) **(6) Helped** You Understand == **Grace of God** In Truth
- 2) Planter & Leader of Colossian Church → From Colossae Himself == **(4:12)** *One of You*
- a) Epaphras Brought News To Paul → Sought Advice To Combat Prevalent Heresies In Church
- 3) Paul Gives Thanks & Praise To God → For **Salvation** of Colossian Believers
- a) Thankful For Gospel—Word of Truth == **Means** Of Their Salvation == **Fruits** of Gospel Among Them
- b) Thankful For Increasing & Advancing **Kingdom of Christ** As Presses Into Whole World
- c) Thankful For Epaphras == **Faithful** Messenger of the Gospel → Thankful to God the Father

Finally, Four Applications To Nurture

- 1) Nurture Passion & Thankfulness For **Increasing** Work of Gospel → **Advancing** of Christ's Kingdom
- a) So That Our Hearts == Blessed & Rejoice When One Lost Sheep Found

- b) Desire More For **Success** of the Gospel → **Increase** of His Kingdom → Than For Our Own
- c) **Rejoice** W/ Heaven When Lost Are Found → **Gratitude** For Work of Holy Spirit **Among** His People
- 2) Nurture Biblical Passion For Souls → Long To See People Come to Xp → Desire to Used of God
- a) Who Did Think Of Earlier → Make List == Start Praying → Start Longing → Asking—Seeking
- b) Heart & Boldness To Share Christ → As **Hope** of World—**Light** In Darkness—**Lord** Of Creation
- c) Show Warmth & Hospitality To Everyone Lord Brings Thru Doors → Feel Welcome In Our Midst
- d) Support Mission of Church → Locally—Personal Involvement—Financial Giving To General & Bldg
- e) Give To **GO Budget** Over & Above General Giving → To Send Our People → Support Missions
- 3) Nurture Biblical Passion For Church == (8) **Nurture** Love In Spirit **For All Saints**
- a) Love In Spirit == Holy Spirit **Produced** Love → **True Spiritual** Love For Church of Jesus Xp
- b) Robert Why Harp of **Love** of Saints All Time! → Answer == Bec/ Bible Does == God Is Love
- c) Spirit Produced Love == **Proof** of Work of Holy Spirit & Fruitfulness of Gospel **Among Us**
- d) Eph. 4:1-3—“Walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called [As Saints], with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another **in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.**” == **Love** In the Spirit == **Walking** In Spirit == **Bear** Fruit of Spirit
- e) Complaining—Strife—Division—Grudges == These Are Works of Flesh == Quench The Spirit
- 4) Hearts of Gratitude & Joy → For Saving Souls—Gathering of Saints—Increasing & Advancing of Kingdom
- a) May Christ Nurture Such Heart In Us → We Would Love What He Loves → Give Selves To It