Colossians 1:3-8

OPENING AND PROBLEM ANALYSIS

Problem:
Pessimism abounds in the world due to political and economic stagnation

It has these important manifestations:
- Pessimism drains prayer and gratitude
- Pessimism is obsessed with bad news
- Pessimism is barren

Allusion to the Solution:
The Colossians had a similar problem. They were living under a constant cloud of pessimism in the culture which was affecting their churches, families, individuals. But the Apostle Paul wrote to move them from worldly pessimism to heavenly hope.

TRANSITION
Let's look at how Paul helped the Colossians replace worldly pessimism with heavenly hope so that we can get help too.

FIRST INSIGHT
Heavenly hope is a cause of thanksgiving (3-5)

Data:
- Look to heaven for hope (5)
- Thank God for hope (3)

TRANSITION
That sounds amazing, but how do I get it?

SECOND INSIGHT
Heavenly hope is announced in the Gospel (5-8)

Data:
- Gospel says "Hope is true" (5)
- Gospel says "Hope is a gift" (6)
- Gospel says "Hope is learned" (7)

TRANSITION
That's all about the future. What difference will hope make here and now?

THIRD INSIGHT
Heavenly hope is transformative (6,8)

Data:
- Hope transforms individuals (Your faith in Christ Jesus 4)
- Hope transforms the church (Love for the saints 4,8)
- Hope transforms the world (Increasing fruit in world 6)

TRANSITION
We highlighted a huge problem - despair and pessimism. But we've found a bigger solution - heavenly hope

CLOSING/CALL TO ACTION

1. Pessimism abounds in the world due to political and economic stagnation. It drains gratitude, is obsessed with bad news, and is barren. 2. Heavenly hope is cause for thanksgiving, is announced in the Gospel, and is transformative. 3. Thank God for heavenly hope announced in and fertilized by the Gospel.