Sermon Guide: The Gospel Still Works 02/08/26

Text(s): Colossians 1:3-8
 Big Idea: *The true gospel does what it promises wherever it goes.*

Summary of the Sermon - The gospel offers us a **secure hope** because it is grounded in the true and finished work of Christ. That hope shapes our lives now, producing growing faith in Christ and increasing love for one another. That same gospel continues to bear fruit and grow wherever it is truly heard and received. Because the gospel already works as God intends, we don't ever move on from it in the Christian life.

Discussion Questions

1. In Colossians 1:3–8, Paul thanks God for faith and love that flow from hope. How does this passage challenge or reshape the way you normally think about hope?

2. The sermon described Christian hope as secure rather than uncertain. What are some ways you can tell when your hope is being shaped more by your circumstances than by the gospel?

3. How does knowing that your future is settled in Christ change the way you approach faithfulness, obedience, or perseverance today?

4. Paul connects hope directly to love for "all the saints." In what ways does a secure hope make it easier, or harder, to love others in the church sacrificially?

5. The gospel must be heard, understood, and believed in order to bear fruit. What do you think it means to truly understand and receive the gospel rather than just being familiar with it?

6. Read the following passages about inheritance: **Ephesians 1:11–14; 1 Peter 1:3–5; Romans 8:16–18**. What do these verses teach us about what our inheritance is and how secure it is? How often are hope and faith linked in these passages?

7. The sermon emphasized that the gospel, not our personal effort, is the active agent that "bears fruit and increases." How does that truth encourage you in seasons where growth feels slow or difficult?

8. Paul highlights Epaphras as someone who heard the gospel, believed it, and passed it on. Who has played that role in your life, and how might God be calling you to do the same for others?