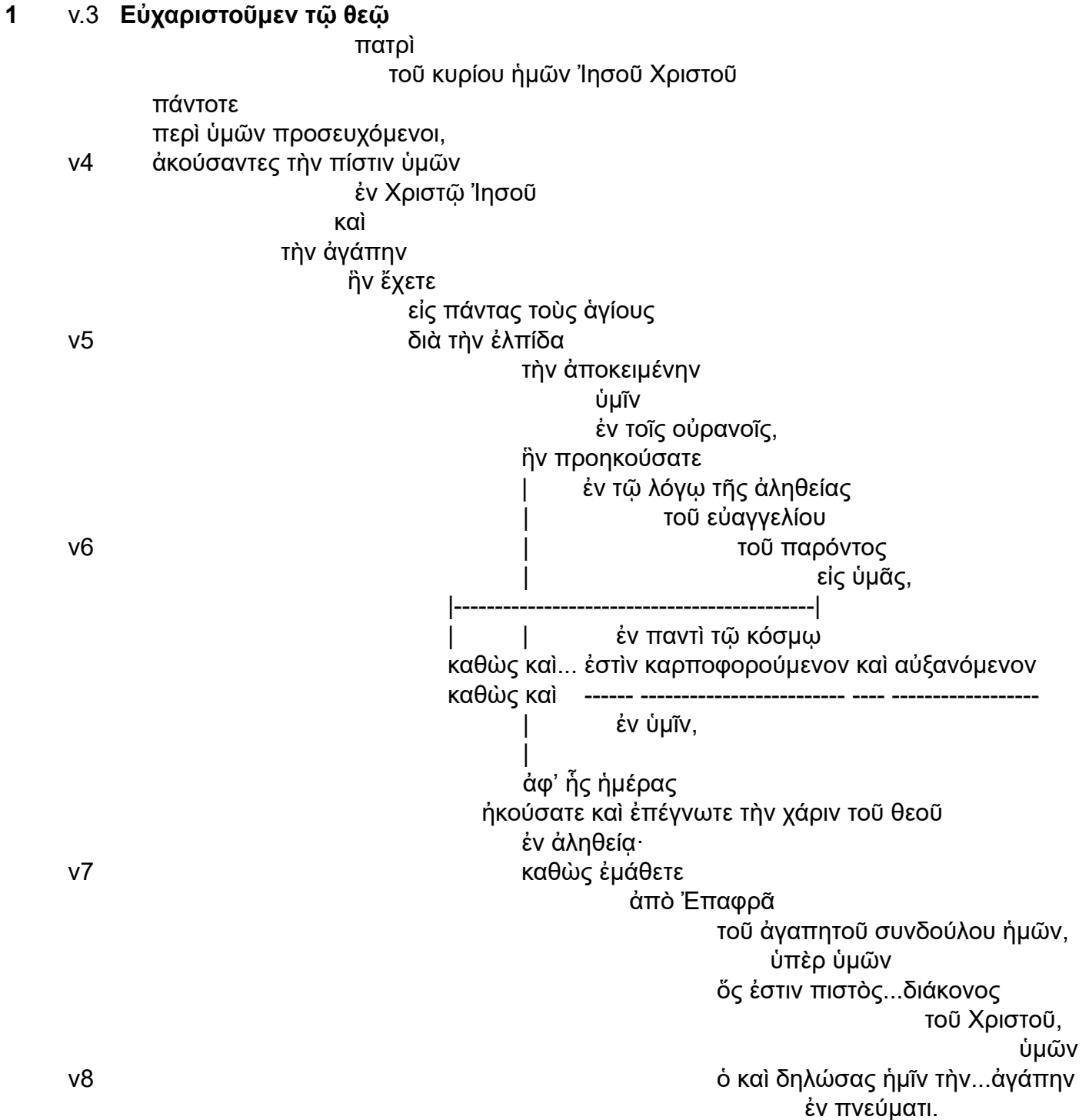


Colossians 1.3-8 Proem
Block Diagram Greek Text



Note the one main idea of giving thanks to God, and how this core concept is elaborated extensively by a series of mostly adverbial modifiers. Hearing is the primary secondary concept. First, in v. 4, it's Paul's hearing, but then in vv. 5-8 it is the hearing of the Gospel message preached by Epaphras to the Colossians. The role of hope as foundational to faith and love is very important to this hearing of the Gospel. The impeachable character of Epaphras sustained his initial ministry of Gospel preaching at Colossae and then later his reporting of all this to the apostle Paul upon his arrival at Caesarea where Paul was a prisoner. It is important to remember that this lengthy sentence is in the form of a prayer of thanksgiving for the Colossians being made regularly to God by Paul and Timothy. The concept of salvation, both human and divine aspects, is laid out in outline manner here.