

*“Is It Well?”
Colossians 1:12-14*

Introduction:

1. There's A Hymn In Our Hymn-Book That Has Been A Favorite Of Ours For A Long Time!
 - “It Is Well!”
 - You Might Remember That:
 - Horatio Spafford - The Author Of This Hymn - Wrote Those Words During A Time Of Great Loss & Grief In His Life!
 - It All Began In 1871 - When Horatio:
 - “A Prosperous Lawyer And Devout Christian, Along With His Wife Anna, Were Living Comfortably With Their Four Young Daughters In Chicago, Illinois. In That Year, The Great Chicago Fire Broke Out Which Devastated The Entire City. For The Next Two Years Horatio And Anna Devoted Their Time To Welfare Work Amongst The Refugees Of The Fire. / By November 1873, The Spaffords Needed Some Respite And Decided To Join Friends In Europe. But Just Before Their Departure, Horatio Was Detained On Business. Anna And Their Four Daughters Were Persuaded To Set Off Without Him, But, En Route, Tragedy Struck. The Steamship They Were Traveling On Sank After Colliding With Another Ship In Mid-Ocean. / Of The Hundreds On Board, Anna Was One Of Only 27 Who Were Rescued, Having Been Kept Afloat By A Piece Of Debris. Their Daughters Did Not Survive. Overcome With Despair At The Loss Of Their Children, Anna Felt Strongly That She Had Been Saved For A Purpose. / In Chicago, Horatio Received A Tragic Telegram From His Wife: ‘Saved Alone.’ / Setting Off To Bring Anna Home, He Crossed The Atlantic And The Watery Grave Of His Four Daughters. Moved By The Experience, He Wrote The Hymn: ‘It Is Well With My Soul!’”
2. As We Head Back In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To The Book Of Colossians:
 - I Want The Words Written By Horatio Spafford:
 - In That Time Of Tragedy:
 - To Ring In Your Years - In The Form Of A Question!
 - “Is It Well – With *Your* Soul?”
 - *“Is It Well?”*
 - If Tragedy Struck You Tomorrow:
 - Could You Say - With The Same Assurance - Those Same Words?
 - I Want You To Know:
 - That You *Could* Say Those Words:
 - And You *Can* Say Those Words:
 - If What Paul Is Says About Those Colossian Christians Is True About You As Well!
 - 3. Because - At The Beginning Of His Letter:
 - He Offers A Special Prayer:
 - For That Young And Likely, Small Church!
 - In 1:9-14 - And The Essence Of His Prayer:
 - Is That It Would Be Well:
 - With Their Souls!
 - Let's Look At His Prayer For Them:
 - “ For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; / That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; / Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness; / Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: / Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: / In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins!”
 - In The First Part Of His Prayer:
 - Which We Looked At Last Week - Paul Prayed:
 - That The Colossian Christians Would Be:
 - Filled:
 - With The Knowledge Of God's Will!
 - Faithful:
 - By Walking Worthy Of The Lord Unto All Pleasing!
 - Fruitful:
 - Unto Every Good Work!
 - And Fortified:
 - By Power & Strength Of The Lord!

- If This Is What Your Christian Life Is Like:
- Then, It Really Is Well With Your Soul!

4. But As We Just Read:

- In 1:12-14 - Paul Also Prayed That They Would Be:
 - A Thankful People!
 - 1:12 - "Giving Thanks Unto The Father!"
 - And The Way Paul Prayed This Prayer Shows Us That:
 - ***A Faithful Christian Is A Thankful Christian!***
 - That Is - One Way For You To:
 - "Walk Worthy Of God Unto All Pleasing" (1:10) Is To Be:
 - "Giving Thanks Unto The Father!" (1:12)
 - So - Faithfulness & Thankfulness Are Connected!
 - And In The Rest Of His Prayer:
 - He Reminds Them & Us:
 - Of The Great Work Of God ***For Us***:
 - For Which We Should Give Thanks!

5. So - "Is It Well - With Your Soul" Today?

- If It Is - Then Give Thanks "Unto The Father" For:

1. ***Your Great Reward:***

- As A Christian!
 - And Because Of:
 - What The Lord Has Saved You ***To!***
 - Which We Find In 1:12 - "Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light!"
 - If You Are God's Child:
 - Then You Have Been Given:
 - A Great Inheritance!
 - ***IE:*** An Inheritance Is Something Given To You By Someone Related To You! May Be Small, Sometimes Great!
 - But The Inheritance Paul Is Describing:
 - Is An Inheritance From God:
 - To His People! And It Reminds Us Of The Reward & The Inheritance God Promised To His People In The Old Testament!
 - Their Inheritance:
 - Was In Many Ways - Just A Physical & An Earthly Heritage!
 - They Were To Inherit The "Promised Land" - "A Land That Floweth With Milk And Honey" - Promised To Their Great Father Abraham!
 - And That Was A Great & A Good Inheritance!
 - But The Reward & The Inheritance:
 - You Have As A Christian:
 - Is Greater! Because It Is:
 - An Exclusive Reward!
 - In Spite Of What The World Wants You To Think:
 - It Is Something That Not Everyone Receives!
 - Ephesians 2:12 Describes Our Condition Apart From Christ - "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world!"
 - Apart From Jesus:
 - We Are Undeserving & Unqualified & Unfit:
 - To Enter Into Heaven & Receive This Inheritance From God!
 - But - Praise God - According To Colossians 1:12 - He:
 - "Hath Made Us ***Meet*** To Be Partakers Of The Inheritance!"
 - He Has Made Us ***Fit!***
 - He Has Made Us ***Qualified!***
 - This Is What God Has Done For You, Christian! He Has Made You "Accepted" & "Acceptable" In The Lord Jesus Christ!
 - So Now - You Have:
 - An Excellent Reward!
 - It Is "The Inheritance Of The Saints In The Light!"

- The "Inheritance" Here Is Not Fully Developed:
 - Because It Is So Comprehensive!
- Your Reward & Inheritance Is:
 - **All** That God **Is** & **All** That God **Has**:
 - For His People!
- And It Is A Treasure - That Can Only Be Described As Being "In The Light!"
 - As God's Light Is Perfect:
 - So Is Your Reward!
 - As God's Light Is Pure:
 - So Is Your Reward!
 - As God's Light Is Pervasive:
 - So Is Your Reward!
 - As God's Light Is Permanent:
 - So Is Your Reward!
- In 1 Corinthians 2:9 - We Are Told:
 - "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him!"
 - What An Excellent Reward!
- But What Kind Of Reward:
 - Can Be Described In Such A Way?
 - Your Inheritance Is Not Just A Place!
 - Your Inheritance Is A Person!
 - The Lord Himself!
- Your Reward Is Not Just Heaven:
 - It's Him! Even As The Lord Told Abraham:
 - In Genesis 15:1 - "**I** am thy shield, and thy **exceeding great reward!**"
- If **This** Is What The Lord Has **Done** For You:
 - And If **This** Is What The Lord Himself **Is** To You:
 - Then - **It Is Well With Your Soul!**
 - Because God Has & Will Reward You As His Own Child!
 - **Not** Because Of Anything **You** Have Done!
 - But Because Of What **Jesus** Has Done **For You!**
- So - "Give Thanks Unto Your Father!"
 - Who - "Hath Made Us Meet / Fit To Be Partakers Of The Inheritance Of The Saints In The Light!"
 - **Is It Well With Our Soul?**
 - If It Is - Then You Can Also Give Thanks For:

2. **Your Great Rescue:**

- As A Christian!
 - And Because Of:
 - What the Lord Has Saved You **From!**
 - Which We Find In 1:13 - "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son!"
 - If You Are God's Child:
 - Then You Have Been Rescued From:
 - A Great Darkness!
 - **IE:** Imagine If You Were That Man Last Week Who Got Sucked Into A Hole In The Gravel In An Asphalt Silo In Fishers! For 8 Long Hours He Was Completely Powerless As He Was Trapped In The Dark! Eventually, Rescuers From Several Cities, Including Greenfield, Were Able To Free Him! And After Thanking Them, He Also Told Them He Won't Be Doing That Kind Of Work Anymore!
 - But The Rescue Paul Is Describing Here:
 - For You As A Christian:
 - Is Even Greater!
 - Just Think About What God Has Done For You!
- He Brought You Out!
 - By Rescuing & Delivering You:
 - "From The Power Of Darkness!"
 - Not Just The Darkness:
 - Of The Night Or Of A Cave Or Even Of A Silo!

- But The Powerful Spiritual Darkness:
 - That Is Opposed To God's Own Light!
- All Of Us Were Hopelessly Trapped:
 - In The Domain Of The Devil's Darkness!
 - We Were In Complete Bondage:
 - To The Depravity Of Our Own Sinful Wills!
 - So - Not Only Did This Darkness:
 - Have A Hold On Us!
 - We Had A Hold On The Darkness!
 - And Would Not Let Go!
- We Would Think The Man In The Silo:
 - Was Crazy - If - When The Rescuers Came:
 - He Told Them To Just Leave Him In There!
 - But Isn't This What We Did For Years Before Finally Surrendering Ourselves To Jesus?
 - Jesus Said In John 3:19:
 - "And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil!"
- We Needed Deliverance From This Darkness!
 - And This Is What God Did For You!
 - He Stepped Into The Darkness Of This World To - "To open your eyes, and to turn you from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that you may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in Jesus Christ!" (Acts 26:18)
- God Rescued You:
 - By Delivering You From The Power Of Darkness!
 - But Is This All He Has Done For You?
 - No! He Did Something Even More!
- He Brought You In!
 - By Transferring & Translating You:
 - "Into The Kingdom Of His Dear Son!"
 - See - It's One Thing:
 - To Release Someone:
 - From Being Trapped!
 - But It's Something Else Entirely:
 - To Reclaim Someone:
 - As Your Own!
 - **IE:** When Someone Is Released From Prison - Once They Are Out - Many Times - They Are On Their Own! They Do Have Certain Requirements & Responsibilities! But Usually They Have To Figure A Lot Of Things Out On Their Own!
 - **IE:** When Our Military Goes Into Some Of The Hot Spots Around The World And Frees People From The Oppression Of Terrorists - Once They Are Free - For The Most Part - They Are On Their Own! They Are Either Left As Refugees Or Left To Rebuild Their Homes & Their Lives In Those War-Torn Places!
 - But This Is **Not** What The Lord Does For His People!
 - He Doesn't Release Us From The "Power Of Darkness" - For Us To Remain As Refugees In This World - Living On The Outskirts Of The Kingdom Of Darkness!
 - No - He Rescues Us All The Way!
 - Not Only Did He **Release** Us:
 - He Also **Reclaimed** Us:
 - And Brought Us Within The Borders Of His **Own** Kingdom & His **Own Home:**
 - "Into The Kingdom Of His Dear Son!"
 - And - Not Just As Citizens, But As Sons & Daughters Of God!
- And - If **This** Is What The Lord Has Done For **You:**
 - Then - It Is Well With Your Soul!
 - Because God Has Rescued You & Reclaimed You As His Own!
 - And Even Though You Still Live In A World Full Of Darkness, Yet:
 - You Are Already At Home In The Kingdom Of The Lord!
 - For A Christian - Heaven Begins On Earth!

- As Proverbs 4:18 Tells Us - "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day!"
- The Day Of The Kingdom Of God:
 - Has Dawned In Your Heart & Life:
 - And The Light Will Continue To Grow Brighter & Stronger Until:
 - You Step On That Shore - And Find It To Be Heaven! You Touch A Hand & Find It To Be Gods! You Breath New Air & Find It To Be Celestial! You Wake Up In Glory & Find It To Be Home!
- So - "Give Thanks Unto Your Father!"
 - "Who Hath Delivered Us From The Power Of Darkness, And Hath Translated Us Into The Kingdom Of His Dear Son!"
 - ***Is It Well With Our Soul?***
 - If It Is - Then You Can Also Give Thanks For:

3. ***Your Great Redemption:***

- As A Christian!
 - And Because Of:
 - What the Lord Has Saved You ***Through!***
 - Which Is What We Find In 1:14 - "In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins!"
 - If You Have Been Saved:
 - Then You Have Been Redeemed By:
 - A Great Person!
 - ***IE:*** Redemption Was Something Quite Familiar To People In Ancient Times - Both Jews & Gentiles - Slavery & Servitude Was Common - And The Only Way Out Was By Means Of Redemption - Someone Had To Pay A Price For Your Freedom & Release!
 - But The Redemption Paul Describes Here:
 - For You As A Christian:
 - Is Even Greater! Because Of:
 - The Price For Our Redemption!
 - Redemption Is Always Costly!
 - But It's Price Is Not Something:
 - That You & I Have The Ability To Pay!
 - ***IE:*** Like Those Old "Debtors Prisons" - Where - If You Had A Debt That You Could Not Pay - You Would Be Confined - Until Your Debt Was Paid - By Someone Else!
 - Because Of Your Sin:
 - You Owe An Infinite Debt:
 - To God!
 - You & I Have Forfeited Our Lives Because Of Our Sin!
 - But - Praise God - His "Dear Son" Came:
 - To Pay That Sin-Debt For Us!
 - 1:14 - "In Whom We Have Redemption!"
 - And How Did Jesus Redeem Us? Through His Own Death & The Shedding Of His Blood On The Cross!
 - As Peter Tells Us In 1 Peter 1:18-19 - "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; / But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot!"
 - This Is The Good News Of The Gospel!
 - And Now - Because Of The "Precious Blood Of Christ" - We Are Given:
- The Pardon From Our Redemption!
 - 1:14 - "Even The Forgiveness Of Sins!"
 - The Redemption Of Our Savior:
 - Brings Remission Of Our Sin!
 - Complete & Total Forgiveness!
 - To "Forgive" Here Means:
 - To Completely Remove A Barrier:
 - ***IE:*** Like The Tearing Down Of That Old Berlin Wall That Divided That City For Decades Between The East & The West!
 - And This Is What Jesus Came To Do:

- For You & For Me! So That We Could Say With David In Psalm 103:10-12 - "He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. / For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. / As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us!"

- By God's Grace:

- You Have A Full & Free Pardon:

- From The One You Offended With Your Sin!

- In Hebrews 10:17 The Lord Tells Us That - "Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more!"

- And - If ***This Too*** Is What The Lord Has Done For ***You***:

- Then - ***It Is Well With Your Soul!***

- Because God Has Redeemed You:

- To Be His Own! ***To You*** He Now Says:

- "Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine!" (Isaiah 43:1)

- And ***If*** Is Well With Your Soul:

- Give Thanks!

Conclusion:

1. One Of The Things That Paul Does:

- In These Verses:

- Is Personalize These Truths:

- About God's Reward & Rescue & Redemption!

- In 1:12 - He Says That God:

- "Hath Made ***Us*** Meet!"

- In 1:13 - He Says That God:

- "Hath Delivered ***Us!***"

- And In 1:14 - He Says That:

- In Jesus - "***We*** Have Redemption!"

2. For Those Who Are Included In Those Words:

- "We" & "Us" - These Gracious Works Of God:

- Ensure That:

- "***It Is Well With Your Soul!***" Today!

- But - How Can You Be Certain That These Blessings ***Are Your*** Blessings?

- As Certain As Paul Was?

- You Can Only Be Connected:

- To These Very Personal Blessings:

- Through Faith!

- Faith In The Person Through Whom These Blessings Are Bestowed!

- In Jesus Christ Alone As Your Redeemer, Your Rescuer, Your Savior, And Your Reward!

3. Because When You Turn To:

- And Trust In Him:

- Then - And Only Then:

- Can You Say & Sing:

- "***It Is Well With My Soul!***"

- Because The Lord:

- Is My Redeemer!

- My Rescuer!

- And My Exceeding Great Reward!

- Is He Yours?

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