

Colossians 1:12–14

¹² giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

“What God Has Done for Us” Colossians 1:12-14

INTRO:

We are in the midst of a political season. When politics are involved the underlying question seems to be, *“What have you done for me recently?”* Regrettably, many times we tend to act toward God like we do the politicians. We say to Him, *“Why should I serve You? What have You done for me?”*

Last time we learned the worthy walk included four qualities defined by the four participles; being fruitful, growing the knowledge of Him, being strengthened with His power, and being thankful.

Today we will finish our study of Paul’s request by looking at why we should be thankful. We should be thankful for three things that God has done for us.

I. God Qualified Us for An Inheritance (v. 12)

II. God Delivered Us from Sin’s Dominion (v. 13)

III. God Gives Us Redemption and Forgiveness (v. 14)

I. God Qualified Us for An Inheritance (v. 12)

Colossians 1:12 *“Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.”*

A. The last participle describing the “worthy walk” was ***“giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.”*** The next verses expand on this blessing we possess by God’s wondrous grace to us. First, we need to understand what it means that God qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

B. The word translated “qualified us” is a Greek word that means *“to make us fit or sufficient.”* The fact is, we were once distinctly unqualified for this inheritance. We were all under the deserved wrath of a holy God because of our sin. **(Romans 3:9-13)**

“What then? Are we better than they? Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin. As it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no, not one. There is none who understands. There is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside. They have together become unprofitable. There is none who does good, no, not one’”

The wonder of wonders for which we should be eternally thankful is that He has taken us, who were justly condemned, and made us into His holy ones and thus given us an inheritance that will not fade away.

C. What is this inheritance that He has qualified us to receive? It is the new covenant inheritance. The Apostle Paul wrote about this inheritance twice in **Ephesians 1**. First in **verse 14**,

“Who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

He wrote in **verse 18**,

“The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,”

The inheritance is our eternal life with Him in eternity. We are His inheritance as we glorify Him in this life and throughout eternity.

II. God Delivered Us from Sin’s Dominion (v. 13)

Colossians 1:13 ***“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”***

A. We should be thankful for the fact that God has given us an inheritance that we do not deserve. Part of the Lord Jesus Christ’s great deliverance is that ***“He has delivered us from the authority of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”***

B. God gave us an inheritance. He also delivered us out of our desperate situation. We once lived under the tyranny of sin. We read in **Titus 3:3**;

“For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, slaving after various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.”

Here is a digital picture of what life looked like for us before Jesus came by. We were foolish, disobedient, and totally deceived. We thought the way to fulfillment and joy was sin. We soon discovered that sin does not satisfy, it only destroys. We lived as slaves to lust and lived a life of hate and malice.

C. Then Jesus came into our lives by faith and everything changed. God saved us and He delivered us from the dominion of sin into the Kingdom of the Son of His love. God put us under a new master. We no longer have to serve sin, we can now serve the Lord Christ!

D. How much do we change? **Ephesians 5:4**

“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is well pleasing to the Lord.”

III. God Gives Us Redemption and Forgiveness (v. 14)

Colossians 1:14 ***“In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins”***

A. We need to be thankful because God has given us an inheritance that we do not deserve, and because He has delivered us from the dominion of sin and put us in the Kingdom of His Son. Finally, we need to be thankful because of God has given us redemption.

B. The ***“in whom”*** here is in Christ. Because we are joined to Christ, we have redemption. The word translated ***“redemption”*** means to release at the payment of a ransom.

1. A slave could buy his freedom by giving money to a temple and when enough was collected, the master was told that the god of the temple was ***“redeeming”*** the slave. While not an absolute parallel, we are slaves because of our sin. The price of our redemption was death.

2. We are told in **Romans 6:23** ***“The wages of sin is death.”*** So, the Lord Jesus had to die for us. Peter reminds us that we **(1 Peter 1:18-19)** ***“were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”***

C. Being redeemed means we also have our sins forgiven. Two Psalms come to mind.

Psalm 130:3-4 ***“If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, so that You may be feared.”***

Psalm 103:10-12 ***“He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”***

Micah 7:19 ***“Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over the transgression of the remnant of His heritage? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in mercy. He will again have compassion on us, and will subdue our iniquities. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.”***

Finally, consider **Hebrews 10:17**.

“Then He adds, ‘Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.’”

Before the Throne of God Above sums this up very nicely:

***When Satan tempts me to despair
And tells me of my guilt within
Upward I look and see Him there
Who made an end of all my sin.***

***Because the sinless Savior died
My sinful soul is counted free
For God the Just is satisfied
To Look on Him and pardon me.***