

February 1, 2015

# Joyously Giving Thanks to the Father

## Colossians 1:11C-14

### All Stand and Read Scripture

Colossians 1:11c-14 (NASB)

joyously <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

<sup>13</sup> For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

### Prayer

#### INTRODUCTION:

During the last month we have been looking at Paul's prayer for the Colossians that started in verse 9. This prayer gives a recipe on how to mature as a Christian and be able to live a life fully pleasing to God.

Paul prayed that they would

- Seek Understanding of the Word
- Seek Spiritual Wisdom
- Know His Will
- Allow the Lord work through them to Bear Fruit
- Rely on God's Spiritual Power

The final part of his prayer appears to end with the verses we just read this morning. He prayed that they would joyously give thanks to the Father for the great things He was done for us in our redemption. I am not sure why verse 12 did not start with the word "**joyously**".

Are you a thankful Christian? The scriptures constantly remind us to be thankful for all of the blessings that God provides for us.

The closing paragraph states clearly four things that we can always be grateful for. We may in weakness feel like complaining about a few things, but we can always come back to these four things for they are continually true of every believer. The more we think about them, the more an attitude of gratitude will control our life.

## **BODY:**

### **I. Qualified for Eternal Life in Heaven**

Paul continues in verse 12 with the first thing that we can be grateful for:

Colossians 1:11c-14 (NASB)

joyously <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

The NASB and the NIV both use "**has qualified us**" as the translation. The KJV uses the words "**made us meet**" in this verse. The meaning is that we have been made eligible or qualified (by God, not ourselves) for the inheritance. These are privileges we don't deserve for which we have been qualified by God.

So what are some of these inheritances?

- A Father's love,
- A Savior's presence,
- A family of faithful brothers and sisters,
- An eternal life with God in glory.

Romans 8:16-18 (NASB)

<sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

<sup>18</sup> For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Paul says we share these inheritances with the "**saints in light**".

The "saints" are simply "believers" that have been redeemed.

I spent some time researching the word "light".

As you know the English language uses the word **light** in the Bible to mean several different things.

- The light of the sun. A light that illumines and can be physically seen.
- You can light a lamp. This means to start a fire or kindle.
- Jesus said, "**My yoke is easy and My burden is light**". This means "not heavy".
- The secret may come to light. This means that someone may "find out" about the secret.

All of these words are using a different Greek word than the Greek word for "light" in verse 12. It is the word "phos" (Foeths).

There are two verses that use this word to help define what this light is.

### Matthew 5:16 (NASB)

<sup>16</sup> Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.

This does this mean that we are supposed to be somehow illumined when we are redeemed or that we are to carry a flashlight around with us.

### John 8:12 (NASB)

<sup>12</sup> Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

This light is a spiritual light. It is through Jesus that we have enlightenment to the spiritual knowledge and wisdom that Paul referred to earlier in this prayer. It is by living our life like Christ using His spiritual knowledge and wisdom that people can see Christ in us. When they see Christ in us they will see God in you and glorify Him.

### Colossians 3:23-24 (NASB)

<sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, <sup>24</sup> knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

Nothing can take these inheritances from us. If we remember these we can rejoice in the midst of whatever comes.

## II. Delivered from the Domain of Darkness

A second thing the we can be thankful for are the perils from which we have been delivered:

### Colossians 1:13a (NASB)

<sup>13</sup> For He rescued us from the domain of darkness,

Think of the terrible things that might have happened to you if you had never become a Christian. Did you ever think where you would be if Christ had not intervened in your life? But we have all been delivered, as if by one of those SWAT teams that snatch a victim out of a dangerous situation. So the Lord Jesus has "rescued us from the dominion of darkness," by eliminating uncertainty about life and from futile earthly goals. He has delivered us from blindness and death.

### Galatians 5:16-24 (NASB)

<sup>16</sup> But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. <sup>19</sup> Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup> envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those

who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. <sup>24</sup> Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Consider the list of deeds that reflect the flesh carefully and consider if you are still willingly guilty of those things. If we are truly walking by the Spirit, we will no longer have a desire to do those things.

A third thing that we can be thankful for is that we have been:

### **III. Transferred to the Kingdom of God**

Colossians 1:13b (NASB)

and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son

The Kingdom of God is not an earthly kingdom. It is a spiritual kingdom. When we become adopted sons of God, we become a part of this kingdom. We still live on earth, but our citizenship is in the Kingdom of God.

Romans 8:9-17 (NASB)

<sup>9</sup> However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. <sup>10</sup> If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

<sup>12</sup> So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— <sup>13</sup> for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him* so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

Do you see the difference between the earthly kingdom ruled by Satan and the Kingdom of God ruled by Christ? If our lives do not reflect Christ in our life by not having the desire for the deeds of the body, then we are not an adopted child of God. If we are not children of God, we will not inherit eternal life in Heaven and we are not in the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 6:33 (NASB)

<sup>33</sup> But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

We get in the Kingdom of God when we are selected by God because of the love from our heart.

## ILLUSTRATION:

Parenting your child. You took care of him by feeding, clothing, reading, playing, and interacting. You provided his needs. When he was sick or ran a fever, you did what you could to make him feel well. Our parents did the same thing for us. Not everyone had the same amount of money or time to do the parenting. But the most important thing is that we did it because of LOVE. Not because of some set of rules that was written in a book.

Our hobbies are the same way. When we have a hobby, such as sports, or a job, or horseback riding, or collecting, we devote our thoughts and time toward that hobby.

### Mark 12:30 (NASB)

<sup>30</sup> AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.

God is to be our first love. He must be above family, jobs, or hobbies. This is where our constant attention needs to be. Regardless of what we are doing, our first thought should be, "Is this acceptable to God".

### Matthew 6:19-21 (NASB)

<sup>19</sup> "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup> But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; <sup>21</sup> **for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**

Our treasure must be God! If it is not, then our heart will not with God.

### Matthew 11:30 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

<sup>30</sup> For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

Jesus promised that all of us are capable of serving Him. It is not difficult, but because of our sinful nature it is very hard to accept.

### Matthew 7:14 (NASB)

<sup>14</sup> For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

This is the path to be an adopted child of God in Christ's Kingdom and be heirs of His eternal promises.

You may say, "I cannot possibly live up to these standards!" You are right! We truly are unworthy. That is why Christ's death for our salvation is so great. He made us righteous by His grace, even though we were unworthy, because of His great love for us!

The fourth thing that we can be joyously thankful for is:

## IV. Forgiveness of Sin

### Colossians 1:14 (NASB)

<sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Redemption is the act of buying back something that has been sold. We sold ourselves to condemnation in order to practice sin.

We are wanted, cherished children of a loving Father. We have been delivered also from the feeling of being unworthy. We have "redemption, even the forgiveness of sins."

I often think of that wonderful verse in the old hymn, Beneath the Cross of Jesus:

Upon that cross of Jesus Mine eye at times can see,  
The very dying form of One Who suffered there for me.  
And from my smitten heart with tears, Two wonders I confess:  
The wonder of redeeming love, And my unworthiness.

By natural birth we are all unworthy, but love has set us free, and made us both wanted and worthy. The forgiveness of sins means we can start every day with a fresh, clean slate. All of yesterday's mistakes have been washed away, not in order that we might go back and repeat them, but that we might have nothing against us as we begin again. Every day we start in afresh until we learn to do it right. God is with us. He cleanses the past continually. The forgiveness of sins is something we ought to rejoice in every day, because the burden and guilt of yesterday is no longer dragging us down. We are free to walk into liberty and peace. How grateful we should be for these incredible blessings!

## **CONCLUSION:**

Matthew 16:24-26 (NASB)

<sup>24</sup> Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me.

If we are willing to allow Christ to be our Lord, we can inherit the promises. When we reflect on everything that God has given us we will joyously give thanks to God!

If you have not accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, do it today. He died for you, because you loves you and wants you for His own.

If you have accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior and you are still living like the world and not living a life fully pleasing to God. I urge you to seek the will of God in your life and rededicat your life to him. You are either "**dead to sin**" or you are "**dead in sin**". There is no in between.

He is Lord, He is Lord.  
He has risen from the dead and He is Lord.  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess,  
That Jesus Christ is Lord.