

**FIVE THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR
COLOSSIANS 1:12-14**

Introduction

In verses 9-11, we have seen how Paul shared with this Church at Colosse the prayers he offered up to God for them. His prayer and desire was that the will of God be done in their lives. i.e. Paul's desires were the same as Christ's desires for the Church!

CHRIST DESIRES THAT HIS CHURCH

- 1 BE FILLED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WILL. (VS 9)**
- 2. WALK WORTHY OF THE LORD. (VS 10)**
- 3. BE FRUITFUL IN EVERY GOOD WORK. (VS 10)**
- 4. INCREASE IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.**
- 5. BE STRENGTHENED WITH ALL MIGHT ACCORDING TO HIS GLORIOUS POWER. (VS 11)**

There is one more thing that Paul mentions here that God desires from His Church. **CHRIST WANTS HIS CHURCH TO BE THANKFUL TO THE HEAVENLY FATHER!**

Understand that these epistles, though they were addressed specifically to the local Churches that Paul wrote to, they were not just written to these Churches, but were intended to edify all of the brethren of all of the Churches who read them, including the Churches in our day.

Therefore, the things that Paul enumerated as Christ's will for His Church at Colosse applies to us as well as them.

The Word of God never gets outdated! This book is right up to date!

We don't need to scrap it or rewrite it for our times! We just need to **read it** and **absorb it** and **believe it** and **obey it!**

In Paul's prayers, **thanksgiving was a constant!**

There is so much that we need to be thankful for! Amen! Our God has done so much for us! That is what I want us to take a look at today!

My prayer today is that the Holy Spirit will **stir within our hearts an attitude of gratitude and praise toward God!**

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WHAT DO WE AS BELIEVERS NEED TO BE THANKFUL FOR?:

- I. GOD HAS MADE US FIT TO RECEIVE AN INHERITANCE!
(Vs 12; Romans 8:29-30; 8:16-17; 2 Corinthians 5:1-9)**

The phrase "*hath made us meet*" means "*to enable or to qualify.*"

Revelation 21:27—“And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.”

Revelation 22:14—“Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.”

*1 Peter 1:3-5—“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance **incorruptible**, and **undefiled**, and **that fadeth not away**, **reserved** in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”*

- II. GOD HAS DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS! (Vs 13a; Acts 26:18)**

When we were born in this world we were born desperately needy!

The power of darkness was sweeping us away. Sin was already at had a grip on our lives like an undercurrent.

The word "*delivered*" has the idea of someone being drawn out of a rushing current.

Psalm 38:4—“For mine iniquities are gone over mine head: as an heavy burden they are too heavy for me.”

Psalm 40:12—“For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me.”

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Hebrews 2:14—“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;”

2 Corinthians 4:3-4—“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”

- I. **GOD HAS MADE US FIT TO RECEIVE AN INHERITANCE!**
- II. **GOD HAS DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS!**
- III. **GOD HAS TRANSLATED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF HIS DEAR SON! (Vs 13b)**

Christ is going to have an earthly kingdom one day, but that is **NOT** what Paul is talking about. **He is speaking of something that has already happened at the time of our salvation!**

We used to be **under the control of Satan and our sinful flesh**. But now we are a part of a new kingdom where **a new King reigns in our lives! King Jesus is in charge! He is Lord!** Think about it!

**He is Omniscient—He will never lead me wrong!
He knows what is best for me!**

**He is Omnipresent—He will never leave me nor forsake me!
He goes wherever I go!**

**He is Omnipotent—He will empower me for whatever tasks that
He calls me to do!**

Romans 14:17—“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

- A. **It Is A Kingdom Of Righteousness—His Righteousness!**
- B. **It Is A Kingdom Of Peace—His Peace!**
- C. **It Is A Kingdom Of Joy In The Holy Ghost—His Joy!**

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- IV. **GOD HAS PAID THE PRICE OF OUR SIN! (Vs 14a)**
“Redemption” means “to set free an enslaved people.”

Matthew 20:28— “. . . the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

A. **We Have Been Redeemed From The Curse Of The Law!**
Galatians 3:10-13

B. **We Have Been Redeemed From All Iniquity!**
Titus 2:14—“Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”

- 1. **It Is A Precious Redemption!**
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:”
- 2. **It Is A Sufficient Redemption!**
1 John 2:2—“And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”
- 3. **It Is An Eternal Redemption!**
Hebrews 9:12—“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”

Hebrews 10:14—“For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”

- V. **GOD HAS FORGIVEN US OF OUR SINS!**
(Vs 14b; Colossians 2:13-15)
God’s forgiveness is always associated with the blood of Christ!
God does not arbitrarily or sentimentally forgive sin!

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*Acts 10:43—“To him (Jesus) give all the prophets witness, that through his name **whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.**”*

*1 John 2:12—“I write unto you, little children, **because your sins are forgiven you for his name’s sake.**”*

*Ephesians 4:32—“**God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.**”*

A. Forgiveness Causes Us To Be Blessed!

Psalm 32:1-2—“Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity.”

B. Forgiveness Should Cause Us To Fear God!

Psalm 130:4—“But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared.”

C. Forgiveness Should Cause Us To Love Jesus!

Luke 7:47—“Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.”

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If you are not a child of God today, you have some things to be thankful for too!

1. You can be thankful that you are still alive right now and still have a chance to get born again into the kingdom of God!
2. You can be thankful that God is still seeking for you, for you would never have sought Him properly on your own!
3. You can be thankful that you have heard the Gospel for it is only the Gospel of Jesus Christ that can bring salvation into your life!
4. Now, if you really want to be thankful for what God has done for you, reach out in childlike faith and receive what God has done for you through Jesus Christ!

Conclusion

Think of all this that we’ve seen this morning that God has done for us who are saved! *GOD HAS:*

1. *MADE US FIT TO RECEIVE AN INHERITANCE!*
2. *DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS!*
3. *TRANSLATED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF HIS DEAR SON!*
4. *PAID THE PRICE OF OUR SIN!*
5. *FORGIVEN US OF OUR SINS!*

What should that do for us?

Well, it should cause thankfulness to gush from our very lives!

Not just thanking God with our lips, but thanking Him with our lives!

We ought to want to show God with our lives how thankful we are for what He has done for us!