

So Much to Be Thankful For  
Colossians 1:12-14

INTRO: Paul's heart was full of thanks for what God had done and would do for the believers at Colossae. He was thankful for their faith in Jesus Christ, for their love "to all the saints" (vss 3-4), and for the sure hope of heaven which we have when we believe the Gospel and trust Christ (5-6).

In the verses set before us today, we see that the Apostle Paul continues his giving of thanks.

I. VS 12, THANKS TO THE FATHER

A. "We give thanks to God and the Father..." God by His grace sent His Son to this sin sick earth to call out a people to Himself. Salvation is of the Lord, and no man is saved apart from the wooing of the Holy Spirit and the call of God the Father. "Giving thanks to the Father" shows Paul's appreciation for what God had done for the Colossians. Do you appreciate what God has done for you?

1. The realization is that yes, Jesus Christ died for our sins; yet it was God the Father who is to be thanked for sending His Son.
  - a. Note these verses in 1 John that point out the action of God the Father toward unworthy sinners such as you and I (1 Jn 4:9-10, 14).
  - b. Peter spoke of the work of the Trinity in salvation in 1 Peter 1:2, and says in verse 3: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ." Peter and Paul realize that salvation is the work of the Holy Trinity with God the Father initiating the work of salvation.
2. II Corinthians 9:15 reminds us that we are to thank God for the gift of His Son: "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." "It is to the Father that this thanks is given, for it is he who through 'the Son of his love' (vs 13) freely gives us all things (Rom. 8:32)" (Hendriksen 59).
  - a. As we grow in grace, we will abound in thanksgiving (2:7).
  - b. Our prayers are to include thanksgiving (4:2).

B. "Which hath made us meet. . ." It is God who has, "Qualified us," or as A. T. Robertson said: "Who made us fit or adequate for." We are not fit or adequate for heaven: "All of our righteousnesses

are as filthy rags”; but through the work of God the Father, we have been made fit.

- C. “To be partakers of the inheritance of the saints of light.” We have the benefits of the Gospel (Eph 2:12-13).
  - 1. That we have a share in this inheritance is a matter of pure grace and not human merit. Think for a moment about the word “inheritance.” Friends, one receives an inheritance as a gift; you do not earn it. The note on Colossians 1:12 in the Geneva Bible reads: “The efficient cause of our salvation is the only mercy of God the Father, who maketh us meet to be partakers of eternal life. . . .” The Bible says: “Our sufficiency is of God” (II Cor 3:5).
  - 2. “Of the saints,” or the redeemed. The redeemed have been set apart to God, separated from the world.
  - 3. “In light,” It is the light of the glorious Gospel that shined in our hearts revealing God’s Son to us (II Cor 4:4-6).

## II. VS 13, DELIVERANCE

- A. We are to appreciate what God has done for us in that he “delivered us.” The Greek word for “delivered” is *rhuomai* meaning, “to draw to ones self, to rescue, to deliver.”
  - 1. God rescued by sending His Son in the flesh (Gal 4:4-5).
  - 2. When and where did our God rescue us from darkness? This was done at Calvary where Christ was crucified that He might rise again (Gal 2:20; 6:14).
- B. “From the power of darkness”– This means that we have been rescued from the domain of Satan (Eph 2:2-7).
  - 1. We were enslaved by the chains of the Devil until our Conqueror came and set us free.
  - 2. Truly, we have victory in Jesus (II Cor 2:14).
- C. “Translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.”
  - 1. The word “translated” describes the deportation of a population from one country to another. The folks in Colossae understood the meaning of this because over 2,000 Jews had been transported from Babylon to Colossae by Antiochus the Great.
  - 2. Believers are not only set free from the kingdom of darkness, they are transported into the kingdom of God’s dear Son. We are not left without a king or country. Jesus is our King, and heaven is our home. By grace, we have

passed from darkness to light and from death to life (Jn 5:24).

### III. VS 14, REDEMPTION

- A. “Redemption” is the Greek word *apolutrosis* which means, “to deliver by the payment of a ransom.”
- B. A payment had to be made so that we could be set free. “We have redemption through his blood.”
  - 1. The price paid for our redemption is the blood of Jesus Christ God’s dear Son.
  - 2. Ephesians 1:7.
- C. “Forgiveness of sins”– Forgiveness means “the pardon or remission of the penalty, with the idea to send away.” Our sins have been sent away because the price has been paid (Psa 103:12, “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.” “What can wash away my sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus.....”

CONCLUSION: Thank God for deliverance and redemption.

Dr. Cecil A. Fayard, Jr.  
May 24, 2009