

“Reasons to be Thankful
Colossians 1:12-14
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I. Introduction

- A. The hallmark characteristic of the Spirit-filled Christian life is thankfulness
 - 1. Ask yourself, “Am I truly thankful?”
 - 2. “Giving thanks unto the Father” (v.12)
 - 3. Paul was in prison, yet he had a thankful heart
 - 4. In this text, he had been praying for the believers in Colossae
 - a) “That they might be filled with the knowledge of God’s will” (v.9)
 - b) “That they would walk worthy of the Lord” (v.10)
 - c) “That they would be strengthened by God’s power” (v.11)
 - d) “That they would be thankful” (v.12)
 - 1) Why would Paul want them to be “thankful?”
 - a. It’s the fruit of the Spirit-filled life
 - b. “Abounding with thanksgiving” (Colossians 2:7)
 - c. “...giving thanks to God and the Father by Him” (Colossians 3:17)
 - d. “Continue in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving” (Colossians 4:2)
- B. In this text, Paul moved from praying for Spiritual blessings to praising God for blessings already received
 - 1. “Which hath” (v.12)
 - 2. “Who hath” (v.13)
 - 3. “We have” (v.14)
 - 4. These are blessings all Christians have
 - a) From the Father through the Son, by the Spirit
 - b) There are four blessings every Christian should be thankful to God for

II. He has Qualified Us (Colossians 1:12)

- A. We are thanking the Father.
 - 1. What does it mean?
 - a) “Made us meet” (v.12)
 - b) It’s “made us fit” or “qualified us”
 - c) It’s not our practice, it’s our position
 - d) It’s our position in Christ or standing
 - 2. It means the moment you were born again, you were fit or qualified for Heaven

- a) Illustration- The thief on the cross
- 3. It's God the Father who qualifies us. We can't qualify ourselves. (v.12)
- 4. What are we qualified for?
 - a) "Heaven" (v.12)
 - b) "To be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light" (v.12)
 - c) "Heaven" (John 14)
 - d) Be thankful you are fit for Heaven

III. He has Delivered Us (Colossians 1:13a)

- A. The verb "delivered" is used only of God in the New Testament
 - 1. We are helpless to deliver ourselves
 - 2. Only God can "deliver" us or "rescue us"
 - 3. Man's greatest problem is sin
 - a) It's a problem that no Scientist, Philosopher, Educator, Politician, or Religious Leader can solve
 - b) Only God can deliver us from sin and Satan
 - c) "Power of darkness" (v.13)
 - 1) Illustration- Dead, disobedient, depraved, and doomed (Ephesians 2)
 - 4. How does the Father deliver us?
 - a) He sent His only begotten Son (John 3:16)
 - b) To save us from sin's penalty and power
 - c) Have you been delivered?

IV. He has Translated Us (Colossians 1:13b)

- A. Not only has God delivered us from Satan's kingdom of darkness, but He has also "translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son." (v.13)
 - 1. "The Son of His love"
- B. The word "translated" is "transferred"
 - 1. It was used to describe the deportation of a population from one country to another
 - a) Illustration- Israel from Egypt to the promised land
 - b) It happened at the moment of our salvation
 - c) True of every Christian
 - d) We live in God's kingdom now
 - e) Be thankful!

IV. He has Redeemed Us (Colossians 1:14)

A. As slaves, we have been “redeemed” (v.14)

1. It is “to buy and set free”

B. Five facts about our redemption

1. It’s “in Christ” (v.14)

- a) “In whom” (v.14)
- b) Jesus is our redeemer (John 14:6)

2. It is certainty (v.14)

- a) “We have” (v.14)
- b) (John 3:16)

3. Its meaning (v.14)

- a) “Redemption” (v.14)
- b) Literally “to purchase and set free by paying a price”
- c) Slaves to sin

4. Its means (v.14)

- a) “Through His blood” (v.14)
 1. The cross
- b) “In whom we have redemption through His blood the forgiveness of sins” (Ephesians 1:7)
 1. Illustration- On the cross, “It is finished”
 2. “We are redeemed with...” (1 Peter 1:18-19)
 3. Illustration- The Passover Lamb

5. Its results (v.14)

- a) “Even the forgiveness of sins” (v.14)
- b) Forgiveness is “to send away”
 1. “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us” (Psalm 103:12).
 - a. Illustration- John the Baptist said, “Behold the lamb of God.”
 2. Be thankful you are redeemed and forgiven

V. Conclusion

A. Have you been:

1. Made fit or qualified for Heaven?
2. Delivered?
3. Transferred?
4. Redeemed and forgiven?

B. If not, why not?

1. Realize you are a sinner
2. Repent of your sin
3. Receive Jesus Christ