

**“Thankful for the Cross”**  
**Colossians 1:12-14**  
Pastor John Miller

## **I. Introduction**

- A. What are you thankful for?
  - 1. As Christians, we should be thankful for our salvation
  - 2. “Giving thanks unto the father...” (v. 12)
- B. Paul was a man with a thankful heart
  - 1. He is praying for the believers in Colossae
  - 2. He prayed:
    - 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)
  - 3. A worthy walk is:
    - a) A pleasing walk (v. 10)
    - b) A fruitful walk (v. 10)
    - c) A growing walk (v. 10)
    - d) A powerful walk (v. 11)
  - 4. Today, in our text, we see one more characteristic of the worthy walk
    - a) It’s a thankful walk (v. 12)
  - 5. Why does Paul include thanksgiving as part of a worthy walk?
    - a) To Paul, thanksgiving is the characteristic hallmark of the Spirit-filled life (Colossians 2:6-7)
- C. In our text, Paul is not praying for spiritual blessings; he is praying that they would be thankful for the blessings that all Christians have
  - 1. Given to us by the Father through the Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit
  - 2. There are three blessings every Christian should be thankful for

## **II. The Father Has Qualified Us (Colossians 1:12)**

- A. What does it mean that he has “made us fit?” (v. 12)
  - 1. It is not character, which is our practice
  - 2. It’s our position or standing
  - 3. It means the moment you were saved or born again, you were qualified for Heaven
    - a) Illustration- Thief on the cross
  - 4. God qualified you. You cannot qualify yourself
    - a) “To be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light” (v. 12)
    - b) (John 14)
    - c) Illustration- Old Testament- Israel inherited the Promised Land, which was all the work of God
    - d) For us, it starts now. The Holy Spirit. Completed in Heaven.
    - e) “One day we will pass beyond the stars and when they have burned themselves out, we will shine even brighter.” – Kent Hughes

### III. The Father Has Delivered and Transferred Us (Colossians 1:13)

- A. The verb form Paul uses, “delivered” or “transferred,” is only used of God in the New Testament
1. We were helpless, and only God could deliver us
  2. Man’s greatest problem is sin. It is a problem that no scientist, philosopher, psychiatrist, or politician can solve
  3. Only God can deliver us from sin and Satan (the cross)
  4. “Deliver us from the power of darkness” (v. 13)
  5. How?
    - a) The Father sent the Son
    - b) Jesus came to seek and save the lost
    - c) He came to rescue us from sin’s power and penalty
      - 1) This is the negative side
    - d) Not only does God deliver us from Satan’s Kingdom of Darkness, but he also has “translated us into the Kingdom of His Dear Son” (v. 13)
    - e) Literally “The Son of His Love”
  6. The word “translated” is better translated as “transferred” (v. 13)
    - a) It was used to describe the deportation of a population from one country to another
      - 1) Illustration- Israel in Egypt- the exodus
    - b) The aorist tense of the verb “transferred” refers to the decisive transfer which occurred at the moment of our past conversion
      - 1) All Christians - the moment you were saved
      - 2) (Matthew 5:7)
      - 3) (Romans 14:17)
  7. We, as God’s children, live in the kingdom of light and love
    - a) It is now and future
    - b) Every morning when you wake, remind yourself that you are living in His kingdom

### IV. The Son Has Redeemed Us (Colossians 1:14)

- A. It is “in Christ”
1. “In whom” (v. 14)
  2. It’s found only in Jesus. He is our redeemer.
  3. (John 14:6)
- B. It’s certain
1. “We have” (v. 14)
  2. (John 3:16)
- C. Its meaning
1. “Redemption” (v. 14)
  2. The words mean “to purchase and set free by paying a price”
  3. We were all slaves to sin, but Jesus, by His death on the cross, bought us and set us free.
    - a) Illustration- Slaves could buy their freedom and be emancipated
- D. Its means
1. “Through His blood” (v. 14)

- a) Christ's death on the cross
- 2. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins" (Ephesians 1:7)
- 3. "And, having made peace through the blood of his cross..." (Colossians 1:20)
- 4. We are bought with a price (1Peter 1:18-19)
  - a) Illustration- Old Testament- Passover lamb
- E. Its results
  - 1. "Even the forgiveness of sins" (v. 14)
    - a) "Forgiveness" is literally "to send away from"
    - b) "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12)
    - c) Illustration- The first thing we experience as Christians is the joy of sin forgiven
- F. What are we thankful for?
  - 1. We have been qualified or made fit for Heaven (v. 12)
  - 2. We have been delivered from Satan's Kingdom of Darkness and transferred into the Kingdom of the Son of His Love (v. 13)
  - 3. We have been redeemed by the death of Christ on the cross, and our sins have been forgiven (v. 14)

## V. Conclusion

- A. Have you?
- B. You can!
  - 1. How?
    - a) Realize (sin)
    - b) Repent (sin)
    - c) Receive (Jesus)
    - d) Believe