

07-21-13



Scripture:

Title: Thank the Father!

**Colossians 1:18** – review

**Colossians 1:9-12** – review...

Think about the focus of Paul's prayer

Did he pray for their physical well-being?

Rather, their knowledge of God and His will

Evidence of the power of the Gospel in their lives

It is not everything going well

There will be trials, struggles to face

Most important thing – growing in our knowledge of God

Paul prays that they would walk worthy of the Lord

Bear fruit

Grow

Be strengthened

Give thanks

## Thank the Father

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**Colossians 1:11c-12**

Giving thanks OT term – Praising God – confess Him as Lord

Remembering His mighty acts for His people

An act of worship which acknowledges God's authority

God's work on behalf of His people

Consider these verses

**Psalms 77:11-12**

**Psalms 50:14**

**Psalms 92:1**

**Ephesians 5:20**

*20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;*

**Colossians 3:17**

*17 Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.*

**Hebrews 13:15-16**

*15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.*

Over and over we're told to remember His deeds, to give thanks

It is a good thing – yet, how often do we forget

Our speech, our songs, our prayers – filled w/ thanks

Before feeding the 5,000 what did Jesus do?

Gave thanks

Before raising Lazarus from the dead – what did He do?

Gave thanks

Even Jesus gave thanks...

Interesting – unbelievers are characterized as not giving thanks

**Romans 1:21**

**1 Thessalonians 5:18**

*18 in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

- *...qualified us to share in the inheritance...*

*Share and inheritance* using an OT picture

The share and inheritance of the land promised to the Jews

God's deliverance of His people through His Son

How often when we pray...

Do we forget to say thank you?

Dear God, give me this, give me that.

Do this, do that

Oh, yeah, thanks...

It is by God's grace we have anything at all

We have air to breathe, clothes to wear, food to eat...

Easier when things go our way

What about when they're not?

Still should give thanks

Joyously giving thanks

What a celebration this should be  
Our lives – joyously giving Him thanks  
But, you don't know...

What has God done for us?  
Some things to thank Him for even in rough times, specifics  
Always thank Him for these things  
First, He has qualified us...

## We're qualified

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- ...qualified

*Ever felt unqualified?*

*Struggle with it quite often – who am I?*

*Many in Scripture have felt unqualified*

***Moses** at the burning bush – felt unqualified to speak – Moses, of all people...*

***John the Baptist** – felt unqualified – comparing himself to the Messiah – not worthy to untie His shoes*

***Paul** felt unqualified – after all the persecution he brought on the church (many others on background here...)*

*Many of us struggle with this...*

*Who am I, that the Lord of all the earth*

*Would care to know my name*

*Would care to feel my hurt...*

- *Who Am I – video – youtube*

This verse says we're qualified

Not because of who we are, or what we've done

Because of who He is and what He has done for us

Qualified for what?

Qualified to share with the saints in light

Greek word has idea of to make sufficient

To empower, to authorize, to make fit

Qualification doesn't come from our efforts

We are qualified through the Messiah's finished work

Before we were – dead in trespasses and sins  
Lived in the lusts of our flesh  
Indulged the desires of the flesh and the mind  
Children of wrath  
Separate from Christ  
Walked in the futility of our minds  
Walked with darkened understanding  
Excluded from the life of God  
Hard hearts

Of all places we should feel unqualified it is before God  
He is Holy, He is perfect, He is just...  
We deserve nothing before Him  
Through Jesus' death on the cross we are qualified  
Through repentance and trust in Jesus' death...  
Qualified to share with the saints  
People like Moses, John, Paul...  
We are qualified before God  
That's reason for thanksgiving – real thanksgiving

God, by His grace, qualified us  
He qualified the unqualified, the disqualified  
Become qualified – to share in the inheritance

### **Colossians 1:12**

*12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.*

Giving thanks with joy  
Thank God, thanking the Father  
No longer is God our judge  
Through repentance and trust – He is our Father  
Before we stood condemned before Him  
Unable to follow His commands, breaking all His laws

He adopted us as sons and daughters...  
Made us qualified  
Qualified to share in the inheritance of the saints in light

# We have an inheritance

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- ...inheritance of the saints in light

*I remember one of the first judges we had – adopting our kids  
Actually took us back into his chambers  
Had a meeting room  
We sat around the table  
Answered his questions, gave our promises to care for kids  
One of his comments to us  
Legally, once adopted, a child cannot be disinherited  
Good news for all my kids – can't disinherit you  
Yeah, yippy – one twelfth of nothing = ??? ☺*

The inheritance of the saints in light is way more than a twelfth of nothing – more than we can imagine or comprehend

Our inheritance is shared with the saints  
More than enough for all...

Greek – literally – for the portion of the lot

Again – OT illustration

When land was divided amongst tribes of Israel  
It was done by lot – the lot was cast to determine  
who got which piece of land

*Went through inheritance stuff when my Dad passed away  
Often difficult time splitting things up – who gets what...  
Dad said in will – if you fight, you get nothing...  
Went through things  
Sorted – somethings, no debate  
Other things hard  
Put all these together – drew numbers – they picked first*

Israel's inheritance of land was determined by lot  
Mapped it out, cast lots to see who got which part

As opposed to the earthly inheritance received by the Jews  
Through the Messiah – we receive our inheritance  
We receive our portion of the divine inheritance

Our inheritance consists of eternal life

**1 Peter 1:3-4**

*...reserved in heaven for you,*

**Hebrews 9:15**

*...receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.*

Our inheritance is in light...

- *...in light*

Biblically light represents 2 things

Truth and purity

Our inheritance is in the light

Our inheritance is in the spiritual realm of truth and purity

Where God Himself dwells

**Acts 26:17-18**

*...I am sending you, 18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.'*

The saints are those who have

Turned from sinful darkness

To righteous light

Paul prayed similarly in **Ephesians 1:18**

*18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, **what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,***

Give thanks because

We are qualified through the son

We have an inheritance, eternal life, secure in heaven

And...

**Colossians 1:13-14**

## We are delivered

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*Frederick Douglass grew up as a slave in Maryland in the early nineteenth century and experienced slavery's every brutality. He*

*was taken from his mother when he was only an infant. For years as a child, all he had to eat was runny corn meal dumped in a trough that kids fought to scoop out with oyster shells. He worked in the hot fields from before sunup until after sundown. He was whipped many times with a cowhide whip until blood ran down his back, kicked and beaten by his master until he almost died, and attacked with a spike by a gang of whites.*

*But even so, when Frederick considered trying to escape to freedom, he struggled with the decision. He writes in Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave that he had two great fears.*

*The first was leaving behind his friends:*

*I had a number of warm-hearted friends in Baltimore—friends that I loved almost as I did my life—and the thought of being separated from them forever was painful beyond expression. It is my opinion that thousands would escape from slavery, who now remain, but for the strong cords of affection that bind them to their friends.*

*His second fear was this: "If I failed in this attempt, my case would be a hopeless one—it would seal my fate as a slave forever."*

*Today, people who find themselves in slavery to sin, and who think about escaping to freedom in Christ, may have similar fears. They may fear leaving behind friends. They may fear they'll fail in their attempt to break from sin and live free for God. They should take heart from Douglass's experience. On September 3, 1838, he remembers:*

*I left my chains, and succeeded in reaching New York without the slightest interruption of any kind. . . . I have been frequently asked how I felt when I found myself in a free State. . . . It was a moment of the highest excitement I ever experienced. . . . I felt like one who had escaped a den of hungry lions*

We have the OT picture of children of Israel

In chains of slavery in Egypt

God set them free...

Imagine their first day of freedom...

After generations of slavery

Romans 6 talks about our being slaves to sin

Held in chains of bondage to sin

Helpless to break them  
    Afraid to break them  
God the Father, through salvation,  
    Rescued us through His Son  
    He delivered us from the domain of darkness  
    Deliverance is made available to all...

We are qualified to share in the inheritance of the saints in light  
    B/c – He delivered us from the domain of darkness  
    He transferred us into the kingdom of His Son

Give thanks because  
    We are qualified through the son  
    We have an inheritance, secure in heaven  
    We have been delivered

And...

## We are transferred

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- ...*transferred*

God's mighty act of salvation – transferred from darkness to light  
    The kingdom of His beloved Son  
    The realm in the light

To remove or change  
    Used in ancient world – moving conquered people to  
    another land  
        Totally removed from domain of darkness  
        Moved to glorious light of Messiah's kingdom

We have been moved into God's Kingdom  
    We are subject to Him as Lord  
    We are now subjects in the Kingdom of light  
    Rather than slaves in kingdom of darkness

To have citizenship in this new kingdom  
    We must have forgiveness of sins, redemption

Found only in the Son

The means by which God's plan of salvation is accomplished – through His Son

*Can you imagine the life of a slave?*

*Standing on the auction block*

*For all to see – to be examined like an animal*

*To have a price determined for your worth*

*The humiliation...*

*The bidding begins*

*You don't want anyone to bid*

*Yet, if no one bids – what does that say about you?*

*It goes higher – finally you are sold*

*Your new master comes; is He nice, mean???*

*He says you are free – no longer a slave*

*He purchased you and set you free*

Emancipation comes close to the meaning of this word in Greek

The slave is set free – a free man, no longer a slave

The ransom has been paid

Delivered by payment of a ransom

Jesus' death pays our ransom

It produces forgiveness of sins

We were previously in chains, bondage to sin

The ransom has been paid – we are redeemed

We are reconciled to God

### **Ephesians 1:7-8**

We have been pardoned

The penalty has been paid in full

Our sins have been sent away – never to be found again

As far as the east is from the west

Thrown into the depths of the sea

### **Conclusion:**

First question

Have you accepted God's qualification of you?

Have you trusted Him for His inheritance?

Have you repented from your sins and sought His deliverance?

Has God transferred you into His kingdom?

All of these things are things that God has made available to us

Our part is repentance from sin

And trusting in Jesus to pay our debt in full

If this has taken place in your life – have great reason to give thanks – at all times in all circumstances b/c...

We are qualified through the Son

We have an inheritance, secure in heaven

We have been delivered

We have been transferred

Give THANKS!!!

Benediction:

**Psalms 107:1**

*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,*

*For His lovingkindness is everlasting.*

Sermon outline

07-21-13

Colossians 1:12-14

T\_\_\_\_\_ the Father

We're q\_\_\_\_\_

We have an i\_\_\_\_\_

We are d\_\_\_\_\_

We are t\_\_\_\_\_