

GIVING THANKS UNTO THE FATHER

COLOSSIANS 1:12-14

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INTRO: Thanksgiving is a great time of the year. In fact, it is my favorite personal holiday due to the fact that there is no real hustle and bustle as there are with some of the other holidays we celebrate. **For the Christian, Thanksgiving should be a regular activity, not just a once a year event! CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE THE MOST THANKFUL PEOPLE ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH!** Often our giving of thanks is focused on PHYSICAL THINGS, which is really not wrong. However, out of the 48 categories of thanksgiving recorded in scripture, **45 of them are for spiritually related matters! That is, only 6% of biblical thanksgiving is directed to the physical and 94% is directed to the spiritual!** **WHAT DOES THAT TEACH US?** It is teaching us that we should be thanking God for spiritual things 16 times more than we are thanking God for physical things. HOW ARE WE DOING IN COMPARISON? Without a doubt, we are THANKFUL for the things upon which we focus. IF WE ARE FOCUSED ON THE PHYSICAL, WE WILL BE THANKFUL FOR THOSE THINGS. IF WE ARE FOCUSED ON THE SPIRITUAL, WE WILL BE THANKFUL FOR THOSE THINGS. In fact, one could say that **THE FOCUS OF OUR THANKSGIVING IS A BAROMETER OF OUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION!** Certainly the Bible teaches us to be thankful FOR ALL THINGS according to Ephesians 5:20, and to be thankful IN ALL THINGS according to I Thessalonians 5:18, which includes both THE PHYSICAL AND THE SPIRITUAL. But today, since the scripture calls for us to be thankful for spiritual things 16 times as much as the physical, let's consider a text that focuses on SPIRITUAL THANKSGIVING.

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CONTEXT OF COLOSSIANS 1:12-14: In the context of our text, Paul is thanking God for the growing faith of the Colossians and in doing so he also indicates that he is praying for their continued spiritual development. In the process, he thanks God for the spiritual blessings we all have in Christ which lays the foundation for the message this morning.

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I. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR OUR INHERITANCE VS. 12

“PARTAKERS OF THE INHERITANCE OF THE SAINTS IN LIGHT”

QUESTION: WHAT DOES “LIGHT” MEAN?

ANSWER: In the scripture, “light” represents two things:

- 1) Intellectually “light” represents TRUTH – Psalm 119:130
- 2) Morally “light” represents PURITY – Ephesians 5:8-14

Thus we see that our inheritance is GROUNDED IN TRUTH AND PURITY in contrast to the DECEIPT AND THE FILTH OF THE WORLD.

In other words, we should be thankful for our salvation and home in heaven!

CONSIDER 1 PETER 1:3-5 REGARDING OUR INHERITANCE

- A. An Incorruptible Inheritance – It CANNOT be destroyed or perish.
- B. An undefiled Inheritance – It CANNOT be contaminated.
- C. A Stable Inheritance – It is forever secure.
- D. A Reserved Inheritance – It is preserved and kept eternally.

THE POINT: **LET US THANK GOD THAT WE CANNOT LOSE OUR SALVATION!**

ILLUSTRATION:

II. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR OUR DELIVERANCE VS. 13a

“DELIVERED FROM THE POWER OF DARKNESS”

QUESTION: WHAT DOES “DARKNESS” MEAN?

ANSWER: In scripture “darkness” represents the DOMINION OF SIN AND SATAN! Luke 22:53

In other words we should be thankful that we are no longer under Satan’s power.

- A. We are Delivered from Satan’s grip on our living – Sin needs not to reign!
- B. We are Delivered from Satan’s grip on our soul – Heaven is our home!

THE POINT: **LET US THANK GOD THAT WE ARE NOT UNDER THE POWER OF SATAN!**

ILLUSTRATION:

III. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR OUR TRANSLATION VS. 13b

“TRANSLATED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF HIS DEAR SON.”

QUESTION: WHAT DOES “TRANSLATED” MEAN?

ANSWER: In scripture “translated” is a word that means THE DISPLACEMENT OF A CONQUERED PEOPLE TO ANOTHER LAND.

In other words, we should be thankful that we are moved from the dominion of Satanic darkness to the glorious light of the Kingdom of Christ.

- A. The Kingdom of Christ is not just the Millennial Kingdom.
- B. The Kingdom of Christ is not just the general rule of God over creation.
- C. The Kingdom of Christ is a SPIRITUAL REALITY RIGHT NOW!

-Note Romans 10:17

THE POINT: **LET US THANK GOD THAT WE ARE A PART OF A KINGDOM THAT IS RULED BY CHRIST, THE RIGHTEOUS KING!**

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR OUR REDEMPTION VS. 14a

“IN WHOM WE HAVE REDEPMTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD.”

QUESTION: WHAT IS “REDEMPTION?”

ANSWER: In scripture “redemption” means to be delivered by the payment of a ransom in order to set slaves free from bondage.

In other words, we should be thankful that we are set free from the curse of sin!

NOTE: “Redemption” involves 3 things: 1) Going into a market. 2) Making a purchase in the market. 3) Removing from the market.

- A. Christ came into the market of sin to redeem us.
- B. Christ purchased in the market of sin through His blood.
- C. Christ removed us from the market of sin through His resurrection.

THE POINT: **LET US THANK GOD THAT WE ARE FREE FROM THE MARKET OF SIN AND IT’S POWER, PENALTY AND PRESENCE.**

ILLUSTRATION:

V. WE SHOULD BE THANKFUL FOR OUR FORGIVENESS VS, 14b

“EVEN THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS”

QUESTION: WHAT DOES “FORGIVENESS” MEAN?

ANSWER: in the scripture, “forgiveness” means to pardon or remit from a penalty. It actually comes from two words that mean “to send away.”

In other words, we should be thankful that through Christ, our sins are sent away.

A. Through faith in Christ, our sins are sent away from us “as far as the east is from the west” according to Psalm 103:12 never to be found again.

B. Through faith in Christ, our sins are “cast into the depths of the sea” according to Micah 7:9 never to be found again.

THE POINT: LET US THANK GOD THAT THE BLOOD OF CHRIST FORGIVES US OF ALL OF OUR SIN FOREVER!

ILLUSTRATION:

THINK OF IT: BECAUSE OF CHRIST’S WORK ON THE CROSS, WE ARE DELIVERED FROM ALL THE POWER OF SIN AND HAVE A SECURE INHERITANCE IN HEAVEN BY BEING TRANSLATED INTO THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST BEING PURCHASED OUT OF THE MARKET OF SIN AND ARE FORGIVEN FOREVER!

LESSON: CHRISTIANS HAVE A LOT OF SPIRITUAL TRUTH TO BE THANKFUL FOR.

- 1) Are you a Christian today?
- 2) Are you thankful today?

THIS THANKSGIVING SEASON, TAKE SOME EXTRA TIME TO BE THANKFUL FOR THE SPIRITUAL THINGS YOU HAVE IN CHRIST. GOD WILL BE GLORIFIED AND YOU WILL BE BLESSED!