

"BE YE THANKFUL"

COLOSSIANS 1:12-14

INTRO: The THANKSGIVING SEASON is a GREAT time of year. And there are SO MANY THINGS for which we can be thankful, particularly those of us who live in America. We can trace the **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY** back to the **days of the PILGRIMS**, when they gave thanks unto God for His provision on their behalf. In fact, the FIRST THANKSGIVING took place in 1621 with the PILGRIMS and the WAMPANOAG INDIANS, when over 100 people attended. VENISON topped the menu and they ate for THREE CONSECUTIVE DAYS. The gathering was not necessarily referred to as THANKSGIVING, but as a feast it was conducted regularly until 1863 when **PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN OFFICIALLY DECLARED THANKSGIVING AS A NATIONAL HOLIDAY**. So many times the focus of our THANKSGIVING is on the physical, and it is right and important to do so. But today, I would like for us to **FOCUS ON SPIRITUAL REASONS FOR GIVING THANKS**. In doing so, we will look at the **PRAYER OF THE APOSTLE PAUL** for the **CHRISTIANS AT COLOSSEE**.

I. BE THANKFUL FOR OUR SPIRITUAL POSSESSION - VS. 12

"PARTAKERS OF THE INHERITANCE OF THE SAINTS IN LIGHT"

A. Our Spiritual Qualification

NOTE: **"MAKE US MEET"** means to **"make qualified, sufficient, and empowered."** Theologically it means that **GOD HIMSELF HAS QUALIFIED EACH BELIEVER** so that we can have a spiritual inheritance. Consider:

1. The Condition of our Original Qualification

-We are NOT qualified to have ANY spiritual inheritance DUE to SIN. In fact, because of our SIN we are ONLY qualified to **RECEIVE GOD'S WRATH**.

-Romans 1:18

2. The Condition of our Redeemed Qualification

-We, as BORN AGAIN BELIEVERS, are ONLY QUALIFIED to receive our SPIRITUAL INHERITANCE by the **GRACE OF GOD** through **FAITH IN CHRIST** - Ephesians 2:8-10

B. Our Spiritual Inheritance

NOTE: **"INHERITANCE"** means **"A portion of the lot."** Theologically it means that **EACH BELIEVER IN CHRIST** received **HIS OWN INDIVIDUAL PORTION OF THE LOT OF GOD** as his inheritance at the time of salvation. We become **"HEIRS OF GOD AND JOINT HEIRS OF WITH CHRIST."**

-Romans 8:16,17

1. Believers are Heirs of Eternal Salvation - Titus 3:7

2. Believers are Heirs of Glory - Romans 5:2

3. Believers are Heirs of the Universe - Hebrews 1:3

4. Believers are Heirs of God Himself - Revelation 21:3

5. Believers are Heirs of Light (Truth) - Colossians 1:12

NOTE: **LET'S BE THANKFUL FOR THE POSSESSION OF OUR SPIRITUAL INHERITANCE - 1 PETER 1:3-5**

ILLUSTRATION:

II. BE THANKFUL FOR OUR SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION - VS. 13

A. God has Delivered us From the Power of Darkness - Vs. 13a

NOTE: **"DELIVER"** means **"TO BE RESCUED OR LIBERATED."** Theologically it means that **GOD HAS LIBERATED ALL BELIEVERS FROM SATAN'S KINGDOM AT THE POINT OF SALVATION**. Cp. Acts 28:16

WHAT IS THE POWER OF DARKNESS?

1. It is the Domain of Satan - Luke 4:6

2. It is the Position of the Unsaved - John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 4:3,4

B. God has Translated us Into the Kingdom of Christ

NOTE: **"TRANSLATED"** means **"TO REMOVE FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER."** Theologically the **"KINGDOM OF CHRIST"** is the **REALM OF SALVATION IN WHICH ALL BELIEVERS LIVE IN A CURRENT AND ETERNAL SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST...NOT JUST THE MILLENNIUM.**

IN THE KINGDOM OF CHRIST

1. The Believer is Kept from Satan's Destruction - 1 John 5:18

2. The Believer is Kept from Falling - Jude 24

3. The Believer is Kept from the Tribulation - Revelation 3:10

4. The Believer is Kept under Christ's Authority - Ephesians 1:22

NOTE: **LET'S BE THANKFUL FOR BEING TRANSFORMED FROM SATAN'S DOMINION TO CHRIST'S DOMINION.**

ILLUSTRATION:

III. BE THANKFUL FOR OUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION - VS. 14

A. We Have Redemption Through His Blood

NOTE: "**REDEMPTION**" means "**TO DELIVER BY PAYMENT OF A RANSOM.**" It was used as freeing a slave from bondage. Theologically it means **THAT CHRIST HAS FREED THE SINNER FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN.**

1. Before Our Salvation - Ephesians 2:1-3
2. After Our Salvation - Ephesians 2:4,5

NOTE **REDEMPTION IS ONLY POSSIBLE THROUGH THE BLOOD OF CHRIST** - Cp. Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:22

B. We Have Forgiveness of Sins

NOTE: "**FORGIVENESS**" means "**TO PARDON AND REMOVE A PENALTY**"

1. God's forgiveness involves Him **putting away, repealing and pardoning the believing sinner based upon the work of Christ on the Cross.**
2. God's forgiveness involves Him **removing condemnation from the believing sinner based upon the work of Christ on the Cross.**

NOTE: **REDEMPTION MOVES US FROM HELL TO HEAVEN!**

NOTE: **LET'S BE THANKFUL FOR OUR SPIRITUAL CONDITION.**

LESSON/APPLICATION:

Being thankful for physical things is good, but **ONLY TEMPORARY.** But being thankful for spiritual things is **GREAT** because it is **ETERNAL.** So focus on the **SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS** you have in Christ and **BE YE THANKFUL!**