

Colossians 1:12-14 – Prayer iii: Giving Thanks, Inheritance, Delivered from Darkness and Redemption.

I. Giving thanks to the Father.

Jesus' cleansed ten lepers Luke 17:11-19, but only one returned to thanks.

Scottish minister Alexander Whyte was known for his uplifting prayers in the pulpit. He always found something for which to be grateful. One Sunday morning the weather was so gloomy that one church member thought to himself, "Certainly the preacher won't think of anything for which to thank the Lord on a wretched day like this." Much to his surprise, however, Whyte began by praying, "We thank Thee, O God, that it is not always like this." Daily Bread, August 26, 1989.

1Chronicles 16:34 - Oh, **give thanks** to the LORD, for He is good!
For His mercy endures forever.

Psalms 18:49 - Therefore I will **give thanks** to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles,
and sing praises to Your name.

Psalms 100:4 - Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with
praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

Colossians 3:17 - And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of
the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

II. Qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

An inheritance is "an allotted portion." God has allotted us everything He owns, heaven; righteousness, peace and joy...forever. It is the Father who qualifies us, not our own works. We receive this **inheritance**, instead of earning it as a wage.

Joshua 1:6 - "Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide
as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

Psalms 33:12 - Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people He has
chosen as His own inheritance.

1Peter 1:3-4 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who
according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through
the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and
undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

III. **He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love:**

Darkness is Satan's territory of sin and blindness towards God ending in hell.

Christians have been **delivered** from Satan's zone. The word has the idea of a rescue by a sovereign power that effects complete transition.

Luke 1:79 - *To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."*

John 8:12 - *Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

1 Peter 2:9 - *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

"Beloved, we still are tempted by Satan, but we are not under his power; we have to fight with him, but we are not his slaves. He is not our king; he has no rights over us; we do not obey him; we will not listen to his temptations." (Spurgeon)

IV. **In whom we have redemption through His blood:**

Redemption is "liberation procured by the payment of a ransom." The price for our release was paid by the blood of Jesus.

"It thus speaks of the removal of our sins from us, so that they are no longer barriers that separate us from God." (Vaughan)

Psalm 71:23 - *My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to You, and my soul, which You have redeemed.*

Psalm 107:2 - *Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,*

The redeemed are dependent of God for all. All that we have-- wisdom, the pardon of sin, deliverance, acceptance in God's favor, grace, holiness, true comfort and happiness, eternal life and glory--we have from God by a Mediator; and this Mediator is God. God not only gives us the Mediator, and accepts His mediation, and of His power and grace bestows the things purchased by the Mediator, but He is the Mediator. Our blessings are what we have by purchase; and the purchase is made of God; the blessings are

purchased of Him; and not only so, but God is the purchaser. Yes, God is both the purchaser and the price; for Christ, who is God, purchased these blessings by offering Himself as the price of our salvation. Jonathan Edwards, Closer Walk, July, 1988, p. 15.

Revelation 5:9 - And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals, for You were slain, and have **redeemed** us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

1 Peter 1:17-19 - And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

In A Forgiving God in an Unforgiving World, Ron Lee Davis retells the true story of a priest in the Philippines, a much-loved man of God who carried the burden of a secret sin he had committed many years before. He had repented but still had no peace, no sense of God's forgiveness.

In his parish was a woman who deeply loved God and who claimed to have visions in which she spoke with Christ and he with her. The priest, however, was skeptical. To test her he said, "The next time you speak with Christ, I want you to ask him what sin your priest committed while he was in seminary." The woman agreed. A few days later the priest asked., "Well, did Christ visit you in your dreams?"

"Yes, he did," she replied.

"And did you ask him what sin I committed in seminary?"

"Yes."

"Well, what did he say?"

"He said, 'I don't remember'"

What God forgives, He forgets.

David H. Bolton.

Psalm 103:12 - As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.