



July 24th, 2005

WHAT HAS GOD DONE FOR US? Colossians 1.12-14

“Joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Colossians 1.12-14

Far too many Christians live in ignorance. It is not an intentional ignorance. It is not because they are not smart, or educated, or capable of understanding. It is generally because they become busy and preoccupied with life and end up ignoring the central truths of Christianity that should be their focus.

Core Competency: Identity in Christ

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

“Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” John 1.12

Do you understand what God has done for you? Our text today reveals three areas of the work of Christ in which he did something specific for us. Let's take a look at these three accomplishments of Christ on our behalf.

1. Christ Has Qualified Us for an Eternal Inheritance

“Joyfully giving thanks to the Father – who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light.” Colossians 1.12

We have been qualified by God (not ourselves) "to share in the inheritance of the saints," in the resources available to all the saints. What are these? A Father's love, a Savior's presence, a family of brothers and sisters to support and uphold us and a certain destiny of glory after death.

But how did God accomplish this? Just exactly how did he qualify us? What work did Christ do in our lives that made us worthy of this eternal inheritance?

*“In whom [Christ] we have **redemption**, the **forgiveness** of sins.”* Colossians 1.14

“All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ...that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” 2 Corinthians 5.18-21

The Key Truth of this section is this: We have been delivered from the penalty of sin.

2. Christ Has Delivered Us from the Power of Evil

“Joyfully giving thanks to the Father – For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves”

“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.”
Ephesians 2.1-5

The Key Truth of this section is: We have been delivered from the power of sin.

3. We Have Been Transferred Into Christ's Kingdom

“Joyfully giving thanks to the Father – For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” Colossians 1.13

*“I have been crucified with Christ and **I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.** The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”* Galatians 2.20

The Key Truth in this section is: We are being delivered from the presence of sin.

*“Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, **who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.”* Ephesians 1.13b-14

*“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, **for it is God who works in you to will and to act** according to his good purpose.”* Philippians 2.12-13