

## Colossians Study – Part 4

Colossians 1:12-23 (KJV)

- 12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:
- 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:
- 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:
- 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:
- 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:
- 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.
- 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.
- 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;
- 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.
- 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled
- 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight:
- 23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Continuing the lesson in Colossians, in chapter 1 we have been looking at the prayer that Paul was saying to the church at Colossae, and it has three import parts. Part one is the statement in verse 9 when he is praying that you would have a “full knowledge” (in the Greek it’s “epignosis” (ep-ig'-no-sis); which means recognition, i.e. (by implication) full discernment, acknowledgement) of the Lord’s will.

Part two of this prayer is regarding our walk. He says in verse 10 & 11 that he wants us to “walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.” Paul talked about the power of God in Ephesians 6:10-11...

Ephesians 6:10-11 (KJV)

- 10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.
- 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Don’t think that you can do it on your own. We get the power of God from the scriptures and that is the armour that guards us from the wiles of the devil.

## Colossians Study – Part 4

Part three of this prayer is stated in verse 12, where we are to be thankful unto the Father. Thankfulness is such an important aspect of our Christian walk. Paul wrote about this in Philippians 4:6...

Philippians 4:6 (KJV)

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Thanksgiving is such an important part of our prayer life... as it says in Col. 1:12...

“Give thanks unto the Father, who has made us fit, who has made us acceptable, to be partakers of the inheritance of the holiest of all in light.”

12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

The actual translation of this verse says “saints”... but we emphasize here with this translation that we are members of the body of Christ, who have been raised and seated with Christ in the heavenlies far above. We are not looking for a kingdom here on this earth. We are not looking for heavenly Jerusalem to come down on this earth because we have been placed in the same place as His dear Son.

If you look at the translation in verse 12 where it says “saints in light”, you might ask yourself, where are these saints? Where do they reside? If I am looking for a kingdom here on earth, does this mean these saints are here on earth? The answer is no.

These saints are in light where Christ sits far above all. The Greek word here in verse 12 for saints is “hagios” (hag'-ee-os); which means sacred (physically, pure, morally blameless or religious, ceremonially, consecrated). This means God has made us to sit where his Son is, which is the holiest of all places.

Paul tells about this in Ephesians 1:17-18; 2:19

Ephesians 1:17-18 (KJV)

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Ephesians 2:19 (KJV)

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

## Colossians Study – Part 4

In verse 1:18 the meaning behind the phrase “in the saints” is a place for the holy of holies. The same goes for Eph. 2:19 where it says fellow citizens, with the saints. That phrase “with the saints” means the holiest place of all.

We gain an understanding of this in the worship that was followed in the law where there was a pattern was built in the tabernacle that was a shadow of the actual holy of holies. We see this in Hebrews 9:1-9

Hebrews 9:1-9 (KJV)

- 1 Then verily the first covenant had also ordinances of divine service, and a worldly sanctuary.
- 2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.
- 3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;
- 4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant;
- 5 And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercyseat; of which we cannot now speak particularly.
- 6 Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God.
- 7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:
- 8 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

The wording in verse 8 “the holiest of all” is the same Greek wording that was used in Colossians 1:12 and Ephesians 1:18; 2:19. So in Ephesians 2:19 we see that we are placed in the holiest of all places? How can this be? God did it all! We see this in Ephesians 2:5-6...

Ephesians 2:5-6 (KJV)

- 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)
- 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

God did this because he loves to habitate. God inhabited creation... we find this in Isaiah 40:18-22

Isaiah 40:18-22 (KJV)

- 18 To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?
- 19 The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains.

## Colossians Study – Part 4

- 20 He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved.
- 21 Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- 22 It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:

The fullness of God is in Christ and we are the fullness of Christ, as members of his body. The fullness of God was in the beginning and the sin entered in and we started the long road down. But at cavalry, God began the long road back up and He has declared in His wisdom, that in the fullness of times, everything will be gathered together again in Christ. Not only the things here on the earth, but the things in heaven as well.

Paul tells us this in Ephesians 1:9-10...

Ephesians 1:9-10 (KJV)

- 9 Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:
- 10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:

That is the purpose of the body of Christ... as we see in Eph. 2:14-19

Ephesians 2:14-20 (KJV)

- 14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;
- 15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;
- 16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:
- 17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.
- 18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.
- 19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;
- 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Verse 19 indicates we are fellowcitizens in the holy of holies... which is where God is making himself a habitation in the heavenlies far above. We read about this further in Eph. 4:16...

## Colossians Study – Part 4

Ephesians 4:16 (KJV)

- 16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

There is this building that is going on with His body... as we read in Eph. 2:20-22...

Ephesians 2:20-22 (KJV)

- 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;  
21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:  
22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Paul is talking about a place, called the holy of holies, where the body of Christ resides and we are sitting there with him therefore when you go back and read Col. 1:12 you start to understand that we have a unique calling, in a unique location, with a unique position and that is what God has done for you. Notice in Col. 1:13

- 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Now, where is the kingdom of his dear Son? Where has he been raised and seated? In the heavenlies far above, this is where we sit with him!

Don't confuse the kingdom of his dear Son with the kingdom of heaven. That kingdom is of his father... Remember the prayer the disciples were taught to pray?

Matt 6:9-13 (KJV)

- 9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.  
10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.  
11 Give us this day our daily bread.  
12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

In verse 10, when they say "thy kingdom come", you should ask, whose kingdom is it? The answer is the Father's kingdom, the kingdom of his dear Son is in the heavenlies far above. The kingdom here on earth is for Israel. Our kingdom is with Christ where he sits where he has placed us above everything we could imagine...but we should never forget what he did for us in that he forgave us for our sins.

- 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

## Colossians Study – Part 4

Man must realize that there is only one way to have eternal life, and that life is in Christ Jesus. Most people don't like to recognize the absolute finality of the mediation Christ has for us. Some folks have said "When you get to heaven, it won't matter how big of a house you had, but how many times you shared it with others"... or "When you get to heaven, it doesn't matter how much money you have but how much you gave to others".

That kind of thinking is a feel good, group hug kind of theology... God will have only one question for you when you get to heaven... "Who did you do with my Son?" How did you respond to the love that I showed in the giving of my Son? Did you receive him and believe on him? Is He Lord in your life? Did you believe that I raised Him from the dead?

Man doesn't like to know that there is only one way to get to heaven. So many people like to teach that there is another way... but they are wrong because there is only one way to get to heaven. In John 14:6, the Lord answered Thomas and told him:

John 14:1-6 (KJV)

- 1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.
- 2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.
- 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.
- 4 And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.
- 5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?
- 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

So, back in Colossians 1:14 tells us that there is no other name in whom we have redemption other than Christ.

- 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Now, in verse 15-17, Paul starts talking about who Christ is...

- 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:
- 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him
- 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.
- 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.
- 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

## Colossians Study – Part 4

In verse 19 we are told the in Christ is the fullness of the Godhead, bodily... Christ is the image of the Godhead and we are made in that image.

Theologians like to think that our image is like God's since we have three parts, being body, soul, and spirit... but that is not it at all. We are made in the image of him. That means we are made in the physical image of Christ. God was born as Christ in the image of man because that is what he looked like already.

- 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.
- 21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled
- 22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

What an amazing thing that God has done with his Son and the work of his Son! We struggle with lots of things, we struggle with one another. We struggle with our thoughts, with the things we do... and all of this struggling is with the old man. God has given us victory over the old man! Sometimes we manifest that victory, and sometimes we don't.

- 23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

What is Paul saying in verse 23 where he says the hope of the gospel which was preached to every creature which is under heaven? What about those natives in the deepest jungle in Africa? Man often tries this logic against God but we know that God is righteous and will always do the right thing.

We see an example of what God has done for us in the story of Mephibosheth in 2 Samuel 4:1-4 and 9:1-7

2 Samuel 4:1-4 (KJV)

- 1 And when Saul's son heard that Abner was dead in Hebron, his hands were feeble, and all the Israelites were troubled.
- 2 And Saul's son had two men that were captains of bands: the name of the one was Baanah, and the name of the other Rechab, the sons of Rimmon a Beerothite, of the children of Benjamin: (for Beeroth also was reckoned to Benjamin:
- 3 And the Beerothites fled to Gittaim, and were sojourners there until this day.)
- 4 And Jonathan, Saul's son, had a son that was lame of his feet. He was five years old when the tidings came of Saul and Jonathan out of Jezreel, and his nurse took him up, and fled: and it came to pass, as she made haste to flee, that he fell, and became lame. And his name was Mephibosheth.

## Colossians Study – Part 4

2 Samuel 9:1-7 (KJV)

- 1 And David said, Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may shew him kindness for Jonathan's sake?
- 2 And there was of the house of Saul a servant whose name was Ziba. And when they had called him unto David, the king said unto him, Art thou Ziba? And he said, Thy servant is he.
- 3 And the king said, Is there not yet any of the house of Saul, that I may shew the kindness of God unto him? And Ziba said unto the king, Jonathan hath yet a son, which is lame on his feet.
- 4 And the king said unto him, Where is he? And Ziba said unto the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lo-debar.
- 5 Then king David sent, and fetched him out of the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, from Lo-debar.
- 6 Now when Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, was come unto David, he fell on his face, and did reverence. And David said, Mephibosheth. And he answered, Behold thy servant!
- 7 And David said unto him, Fear not: for I will surely shew thee kindness for Jonathan thy father's sake, and will restore thee all the land of Saul thy father; and thou shalt eat bread at my table continually.

David gave Mephibosheth this blessing which would have been Jonathan's for an inheritance (Saul, Jonathan, and then Mephibosheth). Mephibosheth never had to go back to his home town, he never had to go back to the land of Saul, and he never had to deal with all the servants that were put in charge with all that David gave them to manage. Mephibosheth was simply welcomed forever at King David's table and his inheritance was restored.

This story is a beautiful picture of what God has given us with the body of Christ, where God raised us to sit in the heavenlies far above with Christ. We are not to worry about the things that are here but simply to do good works in a way that glorifies him. The next lesson will focus on what activities are we supposed to do in the calling that he has given us.