

Sunday, August 9, 2009—Praying the Powerful Prayers of Paul-- A Prayer to be Filled with the Knowledge of His Will—Colossians 1:9-14—Part 6

Introduction

- For the last five weeks we have been studying the details of Paul’s prayer for the Colossians found here in Colossians 1:9-14.
- Remember that all of the prayers we have been studying in this series were penned by Paul under the influence of the God the Holy Spirit through the process of inspiration.
- Therefore we are getting insight into what the Holy Spirit knows believers need.
- In verses 9-11 we see Paul’s desires and therefore the Holy Spirit’s wishes on behalf of the Colossians.
- In verses 12-14 Paul turns his attention to praise and thanksgiving for what God has already accomplished on their behalf.

Colossians 1:12

- Paul now begins to offer thanksgiving for some specific things that God has already done for believers.
- Meet-- to make sufficient, render fit, to equip one with adequate power to perform duties of one. Fit; suitable; proper; qualified; convenient; adapted, as to a use or purpose.
 - II Corinthians 3:6—hath made us able ministers
- Partakers-- a part as distinct from the whole, 2) an assigned part, a portion, share
- We have been made meet to receive a part, portion, or share of something.
- Please notice that “hath made us meet to be partakers,” is past tense. This is something that God the father already accomplished for them on their behalf.
- We have been made fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.
- As members of the Body of Christ we have a heavenly spiritual inheritance in Jesus Christ.
 - Ephesians 1:11, 13-14

- Ephesians 1:18—we have already studied how God inherits the heavenly places back to himself through the heavenly agency of the Body of Christ.
- Colossians 1:12—the inheritance of the saints is given freely to all who have put their faith in Jesus Christ as the only total complete payment for their sins.
- As believers we need to view ourselves the way God does, meet, accepted, and saints. We need to view ourselves the way God does.
- Notice that this inheritance is “in light” at the end of verse 12. This expression in light is dealing with the fact that our inheritance is in the sphere of light, or before or in the presence of God.
 - Ephesians 5:8
 - I Thessalonians 5:5—we are children of the light not the darkness
- This issue of light is directly contrasted with darkness in the next verse in Colossians 1.

Colossians 1:13

- “Who” is still referring to God the Father in verse 12. So not only has God the Father “made us meet to partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light,” but He has also “delivered us from the power of darkness.”
- Deliver—means to draw to oneself, to rescue. This word is never used in the New Testament to describe someone delivering themselves; the one delivering is always God.
 - Romans 15:31
 - II Thessalonians 3:2
 - I Thessalonians 1:10
 - II Timothy 4:17
- Notice once again the use of the past tense “hath delivered.” Paul is talking about a once-for-all deliverance, a completed transaction which was produced by God. Consequently, this deliverance can never be undone.
- What are we delivered from? The Power of Darkness
- The Greek word translated “power” in this verse is also translated “authority” 29 other times in the New Testament. Their relation is undeniable, one has authority because he has power and one has power because he has authority.
 - Matthew 7:29
 - Mark 2:10
 - Mark 3:10

- The implication is clear, God delivered us out of the power of darkness, i.e., out from under the authority of the one characterized as darkness.
- Luke 22:53—who is this referring two? Satan. Who entered into Jesus to betray Jesus to the chief priests? Satan
- Acts 26:18—Paul speaks about being sent to turn men from the power of Satan to God.
- Ephesians 2:2—Paul talks about the “prince the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience,” which obviously refers to Satan.
- Colossians 1:13—Paul is literally talking about reaching into Satan’s domain and taking out from under his authority men, women, and children and placing them under a new power and authority.
- Not only have we been delivered (past tense) but we also hath been “translated” into the kingdom of his dear son.
- Translated—means to transpose, transfer, remove from one place to another, a change of situation or place.
- In other words we have been moved out from under Satan’s power and authority and placed under a new governmental head Jesus Christ His dear Son.

Colossians 1:14

- In whom or his dear Son (Jesus Christ) we have redemption. Fundamentally redemption means “to deliver by paying a price.”
- A complete understanding of redemption is gained from looking at the three Greek words that are translated redemption:
 - *Agorazo*—to purchase in the market. The underlying thought is of a slave-market. The subject of redemption are sold under sin, under the sentence of death, and the purchase price is the blood of a redeemer who dies in their stead.
 - *Exagorazo*—to buy out of the market. The redeemed are never again to be exposed to sale.
 - *Lutro*—to lose. To set free by paying the price.
- Christ paid the price and the Holy Spirit makes deliverance actual in experience.
- Colossians 1:14—how does this redemption come? Through his blood. Redemption can only be received by the faith application of the blood of Jesus Christ.

- If you are using a modern translation of the Bible your leaves out the blood of Christ.
- Modern translations are more than an updating of the Old English of the King James, rather they are entirely different Bibles.
- If you have an NIV this morning please turn to the following verses:
 - Matthew 17:21
 - Matthew 18:11
 - Mark 1:2-3—written in the Prophets
 - Mark 9:44, 46
 - Luke 2:33—father and mother
 - Luke 17:36
 - Romans 16:24
- Now how can all of these Bibles equally be the word of God?
- Colossians 1:14—as believers all of our sins have been forgiven.