

Sunday, March 1, 2020—Colossians 1:12 Partakers of the Inheritance

Introduction/Review

- Since hearing about the faith of the Colossians (Col. 1:4) Paul and Timothy had not ceased to pray for them. Their “desire” i.e., the “cause” for which Paul and Timothy were praying for the Colossians was that they “might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (Col. 1:9).
 - “That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing” (Col. 1:10)
 - “Being fruitful in every good work” (Col. 1:10)
 - “Increasing in the knowledge of God.” (Col. 1:10)
 - “Strengthen with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.” (Col. 1:11)
 - These are the exact qualities that we need to live and thrive in the current dispensation.
- This morning we want to move on through the passage and consider verse 12.

Colossians 1:12

- **Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:**
- **Giving thanks unto the Father**—verse 12 is still part of the Holy Spirit’s inspired prayer for the Colossians recorded by the Apostle Paul. Paul is giving thanks unto God the Father for something very specific in this verse.
 - Philippians 4:6—as we endeavor to pray without ceasing the issue of “thanksgiving” need to be an important part of prayer life.
 - I Thessalonians 5:17-18—as members of the body of Christ we have much to be thankful for.
- Colossians 1:12—once again with the statement “giving thanks unto the father” we see Paul modeling for us the nature of prayer during the dispensation of grace.
- **which hath made us meet to be partakers**—Paul is giving “unto the Father” for something very specific in this verse. The Father “hath made us meet to be partakers.”

- **Hath made**—the verb translated “hath made” is in the artist tense and the active voice. Thus, it is rendered in the past tense in English. Paul is referring to something that God the Father has already done or accomplished on our behalf.
- **Us**—to whom does this action apply? In the immediate context it applies to “us” i.e., all the believers in Colosse along with Paul and Timothy. It is important to follow the pronouns throughout the entirety of the passage.
 - By extension this action that God the Father took applied to the entire body of Christ including you and I. What is the action?
- **meet to be partakers**—he made “us meet to be partakers.” The English word “meet” carries the following meanings according to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language*:
 - “Fit; suitable; proper; qualified; convenient; adapted, as to a use or purpose.”
 - Romans 1:27
 - I Corinthians 15:9
 - I Corinthians 16:4
 - Philippians 1:7
 - I Thessalonians 4:17
- Colossians 1:12—God the Father “hath made us meet” i.e., fitting, suitable, and qualified to “be partakers.” Webster defines a partaker as follows:
 - “One who has or takes a part, share or portion in common with others; a sharer; a participator; usually followed by of.”
 - Ephesians 3:6
 - Ephesians 5:7
 - Philippians 1:7
- Colossians 1:12—God the Father “hath made us meet” i.e., fitting, suitable, and qualified “to be partakers” with Him in something. God the Father performed this action upon us we did not and could not qualified ourselves “to be partakers.” What are we partaking in?

- **of the inheritance of the saints in light**—we have been made “partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.” There is an inheritance that extends and applies to all the saints that God the Father has made us “meet” to partake in.
 - Acts 26:18—since God saved Saul of Tarsus on the road to Damascus it has been his plan and purpose to give the gentiles and inheritance through faith in Jesus Christ.
- Ephesians 1:18—not only does each individual member of the body of Christ received an inheritance but God is going to use the body of Christ to inherit and repossess the heavenly places for his glory.
 - Ephesians 1:20-23—it is through the church the body of Christ i.e., all of the saints of this dispensation that God the Father is going to make his Son the Lord Jesus Christ the head over all things.
 - Ephesians 1:10
 - Colossians 1:18-19
- Colossians 1:12—God the Father has made us “meet” and qualified so that he can use for his glory in the heavenly places. We also need to give thanks to the father for not only saving us from eternal punishment and separation from him but for seeing fit to use of for glory throughout all eternity.