

## REASONS FOR GIVING THANKS, PT. 1; COL. 1:12b

### INTRODUCTION.

LAST TIME ~ WE LOOKED AT FOUR CHARACTERISTICS ~ OF A LIFE ~ THAT IS pleasing to the Lord.

▶▶ The 4<sup>th</sup> characteristic ~ of this kind of life, ~ listed in [verses 11b-12a](#), ~ ¶¶

▷▷ is ~ a joyful and continual giving of thanks to the Father.

▷▷ I.e., ~ believers please God ~ when they are ~ joyfully ~ and continually ~ giving thanks to the Father.

IN VERSES 12b-14, ~ PAUL GIVES US FOUR REASONS FOR JOYFULLY AND continually giving thanks to the Father.

▶▶ And that ~ is what we'll begin to focus on today.

▶▶ I'll give them to you, ~ and then we'll carefully look at the first one this morning.

▶▶ Four reasons ~ for joyfully and continually ~ giving thanks to our Heavenly Father.

▷▷ 1. For ~ qualifying believers "[to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.](#)"

▷▷ 2. For ~ rescuing us from the domain of darkness ~ and transferring us ~ to the kingdom ~ of his beloved Son.

▷▷ 3. for ~ "[redemption.](#)"

▷▷ And 4. for ~ "[the forgiveness of sins.](#)" ¶¶ 1/13

## THE FIRST REASON FOR GIVING THANKS CONTINUALLY AND JOYFULLY, ~ 12b

PAUL WRITES, ~ "WHO, ~ [THE FATHER] ~ "HAS QUALIFIED YOU TO SHARE IN THE inheritance of the saints in the light."

▶▶ A much more literal rendering of the Greek text.

▷▷ "in the light" is how the Greek text reads. ~ Many versions read "in light."

▷▷ I'll explain in a little bit ~ why I've given you the more literal reading.

GOD THE FATHER ~ HAS QUALIFIED US, ~ I.E., ~ BELIEVERS, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ to share ~ in the inheritance ~ that God has reserved for his people.

▶▶ The verb ~ "qualified" ~ looks back to our conversion, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ when God saved us from our sins and caused us to be born again.

▶▶ At the same time, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ he qualified us ~ to share in the inheritance ~ that he has promised to give to all his people.

THAT GOD THE FATHER QUALIFIED US, ~ CLEARLY IMPLIES THAT ~ WE COULD NOT ~ and did not ~ ¶¶

▶▶ qualify ourselves to obtain this inheritance.

▶▶ Our inheritance ~ comes through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

▷▷ In Ephesians, ~ chapter 1, ~ verse 11a, ~ Paul writes that through Jesus ~ "we have obtained an inheritance."

▷▷ And in 1 Peter, ~ chapter 1, ~ verses 3-4a, ~ Peter says, ~ NASB ~ ¶¶

↳↳ "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ~ who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again ~ ¶¶

→→ to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ~ to obtain an inheritance." ⇔⇔ Quick side note: ~~ coming back to vs. 4 later.

▶▶ Paul and Peter clearly point out ~ that it is God, ~ and only God, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ who qualifies us to obtain this inheritance.

FURTHERMORE, ~ OUR INHERITANCE SERVES AS A REMINDER ~ THAT WE ARE SAVED by grace.

▶▶ A reminder ~ that our salvation is not from us as a source. ~~ It is a gift from God.

▶▶ A reminder ~ that God "saved us, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ not because of works done by us in righteousness, ~ but according to his own mercy, ~ by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ~ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ~~~~ so that ~ being justified ~ by his grace ~ we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

▶▶ As the hymn we sang earlier says: ~~ ¶¶

▷▷ Tears unavailing, ~ no merit had I; ~~ Mercy had saved me, ~ or else I must die; ~~ ¶¶

↳↳ Sin had alarmed me, ~ fearing God's face; ~~ But now I'm a sinner ~ saved by grace!

▶▶ Now, ~ why does our inheritance serve as a reminder of this?

▷▷ Because ~ 1 ~ does not earn an inheritance. ~~ One ~ receives an inheritance. ¶¶ 3/13

AND LET'S GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO THIS, ~ MY . . . .

▶▶ The One ~ whom we were alienated from. ~ The One ~ whom we were enemies of.

▷▷ The One ~ whom we sinned against.

↪↪ The One ~ who was under no obligation to save us ~ ¶¶

→→ and had every right to condemn us to a Christ-less eternity.

▶▶ He ~ is the One ~ who has made it possible for us ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to have eternal life ~ and to obtain an inheritance.

### LET'S NOW SPEND SOME TIME ~ TALKING ABOUT OUR INHERITANCE.

AND TO DO THAT, ~ WE NEED TO START WITH ~ AND BUILD ON ~ THE PHRASE ~ "IN the light" ~ in verse 12b.

▶▶ Now, ~ this might get a little technical.

▷▷ But my job as expository preacher/teacher ~ is to help you understand the Bible ~ correctly ~ and ~ as fully as possible.

OK, ~ IN TALKING ABOUT OUR INHERITANCE, ~ WE NEED TO START WITH ~ AND build on ~ the phrase, ~ "in the light" ~ in verse 12b.

▶▶ God the Father has qualified us "to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light."

▶▶ Again, ~ a much more literal rendering of the Greek text.

▷▷ Some do ~ some don't ~ translate "the" before "light."

↪↪ Subjective. ~ 1:10, ~ increasing in the knowledge of God. ⇔⇔ τοῦ Θεοῦ. ¶¶ 4/13

▷▷ Seeing the more literal translation, ~ "in the light," ~ helps us, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ because it brings out the definiteness of "light" here. ~ It is ~ "the light."

▷▷ IOW, ~ as we'll see in a couple of minutes, ~~ this refers to something specific, ~~ not something vague.

↳↳ So the literal translation ~ helps us think in terms of something very specific being referred here to.

LET'S EXPLORE THIS MORE ~ IN ORDER TO GET A GOOD UNDERSTANDING ~ OF WHAT this specific thing is.

▶▶ There is contrast with ~ "domain of darkness" ~ in verse 13a.

▷▷ And this suggests ~ that "the light" here ~~ is possibly shorthand ~ for "the domain ~ or ~ the kingdom ~ of light."

▶▶ Couple that with verse 13 saying that ~~ we have been transferred from a specific domain to another domain, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ no doubt "the light" in verse 12b, ~ refers to a specific domain.

▶▶ So, ~ in verse 12b, ~ and this is what I want you to take away from this, ~~~ especially if you had a hard time following. ~~ Or if asleep, ~ time to wake up.

▶▶ In verse 12b, ~ Paul is saying ~ ¶¶

▷▷ that God the Father ~ has qualified us ~~ "to share ~ in the inheritance of the saints ~ in the kingdom of light."

↳↳ A specific kingdom, ~ not just any kingdom. ~~ Verse 13b specifies it.

▶▶ I.e., ~ the phrase ~ "the kingdom of light," ~ is parallel to and restated as ~ ¶¶

▷▷ "the kingdom of his ~ [i.e., ~ God's] ~ beloved Son" ~ in verse 13b. ¶¶ 5/13

CONSEQUENTLY, ~ AND HERE'S THE LARGER POINT I WANT YOU TO GRASP, ~ ¶¶

▶▶consequently, ~ the kingdom of light here ~ is a synonym ~ for the kingdom of Jesus.

▶▶But why did Paul say "the light." ~ Why that phrase? ~ Most likely ~ ¶¶

▷▷to focus our attention on God's holiness and glory which fills the kingdom, ~ ¶¶

↳↳and to set a stark contrast ~ between Jesus' kingdom & "the domain of darkness."

IN 1 JOHN, ~ CHAPTER 1, ~ VERSE 5, ~ JOHN WRITES THIS.

▶▶This is the message we have heard from him ~ and proclaim to you, ~ that God is light, ~ and in him ~ is no darkness at all.

▶▶John's assertion, ~ "God is light" ~ stresses " God's nature.

▷▷The phrase states ~ not merely that God has light ~ or gives light, ~ but that He Himself ~ is light.

▶▶Light emphasizes, ~ among other things, ~ God's glorious character, ~ ¶¶

▷▷His unsurpassed moral perfection ~ ¶¶

↳↳His utter separateness from creation and sin, ~ and His absolute truthfulness and righteousness.

▶▶"in him is no darkness at all" ~ translated very literally reads, ⇔⇔ "and darkness in Him ~ not is, ~ not one bit." ~ ¶¶

▷▷This added assertion by John ~ stresses the absoluteness ~ of God's nature as light.

▷▷In His being ~ there is not ~ a single ~ trace of darkness. ¶¶ 6/13

▶▶ In the Bible darkness symbolizes evil and sin.

▷▷ "darkness" conveys moral evil, ~ unrighteousness, ~ falsehood, ~ error, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ willful ignorance, ~ deceitfulness, ~ and self-deception.

▷▷ It also signifies ~ corruption and death.

▶▶ What John is saying ~ is that none of this ~ is in God.

▷▷ God ~ is totally and absolutely ~ untainted by any evil or sin.

▶▶ With God, ~ there is no change, ~ no secrecy, ~ no hiding in the shadows.

▶▶ There is no defect in the character of God.

▶▶ His ~ holiness and purity and righteousness ~ are perfect.

▶▶ He is ~ eternally and mercilessly ~ opposed to sin.

▶▶ God, ~ who created the starry universe ~ and who gives salvation and life ~ is unchanging.

▷▷ Shadows from the sun change, ~ but not the One who made the sun.

OK, ~ GETTING BACK TO COLOSSIANS, ~ CHAPTER 1, ~ VERSE 12b.

▶▶ Paul is saying that ~ the first reason ~ ¶¶

▷▷ for giving joyful and continual thanks to the Father ~ is that he has qualified us ~ ¶¶

↳↳ to share ~ in the inheritance that God has reserved for his people ~ ¶¶

→→ in the kingdom of light, ~ or, ~ in the kingdom of Jesus. ¶¶ 7/13

NOW WE CAN TURN OUR ATTENTION TO OUR INHERITANCE. ⇔⇔ BUT HAD TO BUILD to this point. ⇔⇔ And I think you'll see why in a minute.

EXPLORING VERSE 12b FURTHER, ~ "IN THE KINGDOM OF LIGHT/JESUS" ~ CAN BE looked at grammatically ~ ¶¶

▶▶as being ~ what our inheritance ~ consists of.

▷▷IOW, ~ Paul is identifying ~ or explaining ~ what our inheritance is, ~ by saying "in the kingdom of light."

▷▷I.e., ~ the kingdom of God in all its glory ~ is our inheritance.

▶▶Now, ~ when you inherit a kingdom, ~ you get all the benefits, ~ or blessings, ~ that go with it.

▷▷So, ~ this inheritance of the kingdom ~ also includes ~ the sum total ~ of all ~ that God has promised us in salvation.

▷▷E.g., ~ the final stage of our salvation, ~ i.e., ~ when we receive our resurrection bodies, ~ ¶¶

↳↳is also referred to in Heb. 1 ~ as part of our inheritance.

▷▷Additionally, ~ in Matt. 5:5, ~ Jesus said, ⇔⇔ "Blessed are the meek ~ [referring to Jesus' followers], ~ for they shall inherit the earth."

↳↳I.e., ~ the new earth, ~ as in ~ the future, ~ the new heavens and new earth.

↳↳Who in their right mind ~ would want to inherit the present earth?

▶▶That the kingdom is our inheritance ~ is supported by two ~ very clear passages. ¶¶ 8/13



▷▷ In Matthew, ~ chapter 25, ~ verse 34, ~ Jesus said that believers are going to ~ ¶¶

↳↳ "inherit the kingdom ~ prepared for [us] from the foundation of the world."

▷▷ And in Daniel, ~ chapter 7, ~ two times ~ we're told that ~ believers will possess the kingdom.

↳↳ And one time we are told that the kingdom will be given to us.

↳↳ The kingdom ~ in the context of Daniel, ~ chapter 7, ~ ¶¶

→→ is the kingdom of the Son of man, ~ the Messiah, ~ Jesus.

NOW, ~ WE MUST NOT THINK THAT THE KINGDOM WE WILL INHERIT ~ IS NOT A physical kingdom.

▶▶ We're not going to be floating around on clouds ~ in some disembodied state.

▶▶ No, ~ it's a physical kingdom ~ that we're inheriting, ~ as physical as this world.

▶▶ Just like our resurrection bodies will be physical, ~ so too ~ will our inheritance be.

▶▶ The author of Hebrews tells us that Abraham ~ ¶¶

▷▷ "was looking forward to the city that has foundations, ~ whose designer and builder is God."

▷▷ This refers to the new Jerusalem, ~ which John, ~ in his vision of the future, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ saw "coming down out of heaven from God."

▷▷ A physical city. ¶¶ 9/13

▶▶ The writer of Hebrews goes on and tells of the saints of old, ~ that they desired ~ ¶¶

▷▷ "a better country, ~ that is, ~ a heavenly one."

↳↳ the noun ~ "country" ~ speaks of something physical.

▶▶ In 2 Peter, ~ Peter says ~ that there will be "new heavens and a new earth."

▷▷ In Rev. 21:1a, ~ John wrote, ⇨⇨ "Then I saw ~ a new heaven and a new earth, ~ for the first heaven ~ and the first earth ~ had passed away."

▷▷ The first universe was physical, ~ and the new one will be as well.

▷▷ And this indicates the extent of the kingdom.

▶▶ We will be inheriting ~ a physical kingdom, ~ which will fill ~ the entire new universe.

▷▷ Nothing ~ in the universe ~ will be outside of the kingdom of Jesus.

↳↳ Which means ~ there will be no rival kingdoms.

AND IN 1 PETER, ~ 1: ~ 4b, ~ NOTICE WHAT PETER SAYS ABOUT OUR INHERITANCE.

▶▶ 1<sup>st</sup>, ~ our inheritance ~ is "imperishable."

▷▷ Unlike all earthly things, ~ our inheritance does not contain in itself the seeds of decay and death ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and so is absolutely imperishable.

▷▷ It belongs to the heavenly realm, ~ where "where neither moth nor rust destroys."

↳↳ Jesus' kingdom is totally free from the forces of decay. ¶¶ 10/13

▶▶2<sup>nd</sup>, ~ our inheritance ~ is "undefiled," ~ meaning it will never become unfit for us or polluted by sin.

▷▷The kingdom is filled with righteousness.

▷▷In 2<sup>nd</sup> Pet., ~ Peter says that we are looking forward ~ ¶¶

↳↳to the new heavens and new earth God has promised, ~ ¶¶

→→a new universe ~ filled with God's righteousness.

▶▶3<sup>rd</sup>, ~ our inheritance ~ is unfading. ~ This means that it is unimpaired by time.

▷▷IOW, ~ it will last forever.

▷▷And never ~ will it be susceptible to being overthrown.

▷▷And Jesus ~ will forever ~ be on the throne.

▷▷As Dan. 7:14 says, ~ ¶¶

↳↳"And to him ~ was given ~ dominion ~ and glory ~ and a kingdom, ~¶¶

→→that ~ all peoples, ~ nations, ~ and languages ~ should serve him; ~¶¶

↳↳his dominion ~ is an everlasting dominion, ~ which shall not pass away, ~¶¶

↳↳and his kingdom ~ one that shall not be destroyed.

▷▷And Dan. 7:18, ~ says, ~ ¶¶

↳↳"But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom ~ ¶¶

→→and possess the kingdom forever, ~ forever and ever." ¶¶ 11/13

▷▷ "Therefore," ~ NIV ~ as the author of Hebrews says, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ "since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, ~ let us be thankful, ~ and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe."

▶▶ And 4<sup>th</sup>, ~ according to 1 Pet. ~ 1: ~ 4 ~ our inheritance ~ is "kept in heaven for" us.

▷▷ Here Peter assures us of the certainty of our glorious inheritance.

▷▷ The Greek grammar for "kept" ~ indicates ~ that our inheritance was placed under safekeeping ~ ¶¶

↳↳ that the protection is still in force, ~ and that God is the One who keeps it safe.

▷▷ The verb for "kept" means ~ "to watch over, ~ to take care of, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ to guard against" loss or injury, ~ by keeping an eye on that which is being guarded.

▷▷ Our inheritance ~ is certain ~ because of God's watchful care.

▷▷ It is immune ~ from the disasters that often befall an inheritance on earth.

▷▷ Its preservation in heaven ~ adds to the assurance of safety.

▷▷ Our inheritance ~ is safely ~ beyond the reach ~ of all destructive forces.

THE KINGDOM, ~ WE SHOULD ADD, ~ WILL BE FULLY MANIFESTED AT THE RETURN OF Jesus.

▶▶ As members of God's family, ~ we are already heirs, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ yet our full possession of the inheritance ~ awaits the future, ~ the time when our King returns. ¶¶ 12/13

## CONCLUSION.

OK, ~ TO RECAP IN CLOSING.

▶▶ We are looking at four reasons for joyfully and continually giving thanks to God the Father.

▶▶ And the first reason for giving thanks continually and joyfully ~ 77

▷▷ is that he has qualified us, ~ i.e., ~ believers, ~ 77

↳↳ to share in the inheritance that he has reserved for his people.

▶▶ And what an inheritance it is, ~ 77

▷▷ "the kingdom prepared for [us] ~ from the foundation of the world."

↳↳ And all the blessings that go with it.

▶▶ How could we not ~ joyfully and continually ~ give thanks to our heavenly Father?

LET'S PRAY . . . . 13/13