

## Thanks For The Inheritance

### Colossians 1:1-23

**1** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,  
**2** To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers, and sisters in Christ:  
Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

**3** We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,  
**4** because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all  
God's people— **5** the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in  
heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the  
gospel **6** that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and  
growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the  
day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. **7** You learned it from Epaphras,  
our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, **8** and who  
also told us of your love in the Spirit.

**9** For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for  
you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all  
the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, **10** so that you may live a life  
worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work,  
growing in the knowledge of God, **11** being strengthened with all power according to  
his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,

**12 and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share  
in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.**

**13** For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the  
kingdom of the Son he loves, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of  
sins.

**15** The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For in  
him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,  
whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created  
through him and for him. **17** He is before all things, and in him all things hold  
together. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the  
firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the  
supremacy. **19** For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, **20** and  
through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in  
heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

**21** Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because  
of your evil behaviour. **22** But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical  
body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from  
accusation— **23** if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move  
from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has  
been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become  
a servant.

## **“Thanks for the Inheritance”**

### **Introduction**

In Colossians 1:1-23, Paul writes from imprisonment in Rome to the Colossian Christians whom he has never met. His letter is a blend of thanksgiving, encouragement, and theological reflection, emphasizing the transformative power of the Gospel and the pre-eminence of Christ. Paul’s primary focus is on the believers' relationship with God and their inheritance in Christ, urging them to recognize and live out this inheritance.

### **A. Paul Calls Out For Thankful People**

Paul’s letter begins with a note of gratitude for the Colossians’ faith in Jesus and their love for the saints. This thanksgiving is part of Paul’s prayer, reflecting his deep appreciation for their spiritual growth. He transitions from expressing personal gratitude (v. 3) to outlining the Colossians’ future hope (v. 12). Paul emphasizes the importance of understanding their inheritance in Christ, which impacts their daily lives and spiritual perspective. He highlights that believers share in the inheritance of the saints, a theme that underscores the communal and eternal aspects of Christian faith.

### **B. We Are Heirs of Righteousness**

The concept of righteousness might seem distant, as evidenced by both observing the sins of others and personal failures. However, Noah, living in a corrupt era, became an heir of righteousness through faith, as did Abraham, whose belief was credited to him as righteousness (Rom. 4:3). This righteousness, inherited through faith rather than works, demonstrates that spiritual blessings and inheritance come from God’s grace. Maintaining a posture of gratitude is crucial, recognizing that Christian gratitude is deeply rooted in joy and acknowledgment of God’s grace.

### **C. We Are Heirs of the Kingdom**

James 2:5 speaks to God's choice of the poor in faith to inherit His kingdom, highlighting that the Bible’s narrative revolves around a kingdom—both spiritual and forthcoming. This inheritance is not earned through material success or adherence to the law but through faith and love for Christ. Abraham, considered an heir of the world (Rom. 4:13-16), did not achieve this inheritance through works but through faith. This paradox reveals that those who live by faith will inherit all things, while those focused on worldly achievements will not. Qualification for inheritance is based on God’s grace, not personal deeds.

### **D. We Are Joint Heirs with Christ**

Our spiritual inheritance as joint heirs with Christ is distinct from material inheritance. Physical inheritance occurs at birth, while spiritual inheritance happens at the new birth through Christ (John 1:12; John 3:5).

As God's children, we share in Christ's inheritance—His reign and ownership. This profound truth impacts our sense of security and identity, encouraging us to live in a manner worthy of our inheritance. Our trials are viewed through the lens of this eternal promise, which should bolster our endurance and purpose.

**E. Remember Who You Are, & Rejoice!**

Paul urges believers to reflect on God's provision, cultivate gratitude, and align their lives with their identity as heirs to God's promises. This involves embracing and embodying the values of our inheritance in daily living, understanding its implications, and letting it guide our actions. Gratitude and joy should be at the heart of our spiritual journey, reinforcing our identity in Christ and our purpose in the world.

**F. Conclusion**

In summary, Paul calls believers to gratitude, recognizing God as the source of their inheritance and understanding their qualification through Christ's redemptive work. The transformative nature of living in the kingdom of light should lead to a life characterized by service, love, and sharing the Gospel. Living out one's gratitude through these acts reflects the depth of our inheritance and the reality of our spiritual identity.