

“Knowledge Unto Thankfulness”

Colossians 1:13–23

Grasping the knowledge that empowers a believer with thankfulness.

Colossians 1:12 — “giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.”

Thankfulness of a believer comes from a firm grasp of knowing from where Christ rescued us to what He did to qualify us to inherit the kingdom of God.

I. He transferred us to the Kingdom of Christ.

Colossians 1:13–14 — “¹³ For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

A. From what did we need rescuing?

1. **domain of darkness** – means we are _____ and _____ against God (v21)
2. **kingdom of His beloved Son** – means reconciled to God to be _____ (v22).
3. Only those that are **transferred to the Kingdom** of Christ enjoy what? (Two things)
 - a. **Redemption** – means to _____. **1 Peter 1:18–19** –
 - b. **Forgiveness of sins** – this is the result of redemption; there can be no forgiveness unless their redemption. **Hebrews 9:22** –

II. Understand the mastery Christ has over Creation and Redemption:

A. He has first place over creation. How and Why?

Colossians 1:15–20 — “¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions 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.

1. Because Jesus is _____.
2. Because Jesus _____.
3. Because all things were created _____.

B. He has first place over the church (four reasons)

¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself **will come to have first place in everything.** ¹⁹ For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.”

1. He is the _____ **v18** –
2. He is the _____ –
3. He is the _____ **v19** –
4. He is the _____ **v20** –
 - a. How did He reconcile all things? -Making peace through _____.

b. Why do the things in Heaven need to be restored? _____

III. Understand how we were personally reconciled to God:

A. Our former alienation from God was without hope.

Colossians 1:21— *"And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds,*

1. How did you know you were alienated from God?
2. How was our minds hostile against God's ways?
3. How did we justify engaging in evil deeds?

B. Our current reconciliation is spiritually complete.

²² *yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—*

1. See **Romans 8:1** —

C. Our salvation is evidenced by persevering faith in the gospel.

²³ *if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister."*

1. **Gospel** = Salvation is by grace alone through faith in Christ alone having repented of one's sins.
2. If we are not clinging to the hope of the Gospel when this life is over, then we were never saved.