**Sermon Title: The Priority of Christ in Prayer, Part 2**

**Sermon Text: Colossians 1:12-14**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a greater focus on praise for salvation in prayer.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 praise worthy aspects of the believer’s salvation, that reflect the priority of Christ.**

**Introduction:**

**I. Prayer that praises God for our qualification. V.12**

**II. Prayer that praises God for our deliverance. V.13**

**III. Prayer that praises God for our redemption. V.14**

**I. Prayer that praises God for our qualification. V.12**

(**Colossians 4:2**)

 **Philippians 4:6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

 **1 Timothy 2:1** Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men,

 **Acts 27:35** And when he had said these things, he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all; and when he had broken *it* he began to eat.

 Prayer and praise is to be a regular expression of gratitude for all things, because it is the Father who enables believers to share in the saints’ inheritance. Verse 11 reminds us such patience producing power should be accomplished by joyfully not begrudgingly, giving thanks to the Father.

 A. The **focus** is on giving thanks to the Father. V.12a

 B. The **fact** is the Father qualifies us. V.12b

 Here Paul focused the thanksgiving on the fact that the Father has (qualified the believers) literally, (“made you competent”). Competent “to share in the kingdom treasures that belong to believers. (**Ephesians 1:7**) This is similar language of the land of promise given to Israel under Joshua’s leadership.

 **2 Corinthians 9:15** Thanks *be* to God for His indescribable gift!

 Before Christ we were unqualified for the inheritance of eternal life, salvation, and glory i.e. everything that goes with it. (**Ephesians 2:1-3, 12; 4:17-19**)

 1. Inherit eternal life (**Luke 14**)

 **Matthew 19:29** "And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.

 2. Inherit quality of life.

 **Galatians 2:20** "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

 **1 John 5:20** And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

 3. Inherit the earth.

 **Matthew 5:5** Blessed *are* the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.

 **Revelation 20:6** Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

 4. Inherit the promises of God.

 **Hebrews 6:12** that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

 When do we secure our inheritance? The present tense participle “hikanosanti” (qualified) indicates we have it now. (**Romans 8:16-17**)

 **Ephesians 1:11** In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,

 C. The **feature** is saints in the light. V.12c

 The inheritance is that of the saints in light. Hagion (saints) refers to those who have been separated from the world and set apart unto God. The inheritance belongs only to this group of people.

 **1 Corinthians 6:9-10** Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, **10** nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

 **Ephesians 5:5** For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

 1. Light represents truth.

 **Psalm 119:130** The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

 2. Light represents purity morally. (**Ephesians 5:8-14**)

 3. Light represents the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

 **Ephesians 1:13-14** In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, **14** who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

**II. Prayer that praises God for our deliverance. V.13**

 Through and by Christ alone is the believer bought (purchased) from a rebel kingdom and transferred to a kingdom under the sovereignty of the rightful kingdom. Therefore, we should give thanks of praise for our spiritual liberation.

 A. Believers give thanks for deliverance from the realm, authority, and power of darkness. V.13a

 **Exodus 6:6** "Therefore say to the children of Israel:`I *am* the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

 **Exodus 14:30** So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

 **Judges 6:9** `and I delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you and gave you their land.

 **Judges 8:34** Thus the children of Israel did not remember the LORD their God, who had delivered them from the hands of all their enemies on every side;

 **Psalm 18:19** He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me.

 B. Believers give thanks for the transfer into the realm, authority, and power of Christ. V.13b

 The sovereign Christ is called the “Son of His love.”

 **1 John 4:8** He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

 **1 John 4:16** And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

 J. B. Lightfoot says this means, “the Son who embodies and manifests God’s love.” [**St. Paul’s Epistles to the Colossians and to Philemon, p. 142**]

 H. C. G. Moule says it signifies the Son who is “the blessed Object of the Fathers love… the Supremely Beloved One.” [**Ibid.**] (**Ephesians 1:6**)

**III. Prayer that praises God for our redemption. V.14**

 Beloved before we could be fit subjects and beneficiaries of Christ’s kingdom we needed redemption.

 A. The **Purchase**. V.14a

 The word “redemption” means “to deliver by payment of a ransom,” and was used to speak of freeing slaves from bondage. It is the emancipation of those who were slaves of the previous kingdom and king.

 **Romans 3:24** being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

 **Ephesians 1:17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

 B. The **Provision**. V.14b

 The means of the redemption is the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

 C. The **Passover**. V.14c

 Forgiveness (asphesin) means “remission” by the Redeemer. (**Isaiah 53**)

 **1 Peter 2:18-25** Servants, *be* submissive to *your* masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. **19** For this *is* commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief, suffering wrongfully. **20** For what credit *is it* if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this *is* commendable before God. **21** For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: **22** "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; **23** who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; **24** who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness-- by whose stripes you were healed. **25** For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

 **1 John 2:1-2** My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. **2** And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.