"THANK YOU, LORD!"

Colossians 1:12-14

Indian Fellowship - 10/5/2012

INTRODUCTION:

***God is worthy of our thanks!**

5 Reasons:

I. HE <u>QUALIFIED</u> US (v. 12)

(So that we could be <u>fit</u> for Heaven's home)

II. HE <u>RESCUED</u> US (v. 13a)

(So that we could be <u>far</u> from Satan's darkness)

III. HE <u>TRANSFERRED</u> US (v. 13b)

(So that we could be <u>found</u> in Christ's kingdom)

IV. HE <u>REDEEMED</u> US (v. 14a)

(So that we could be <u>free</u> from sin's bondage)

V. HE <u>FORGAVE</u> US (v. 14b)

(So that we could be <u>free</u> from sin's penalty)

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INTRODUCTION:

Hymn - "Thank You, Lord" (p. 486)

"Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul;
Thank you, Lord, for making me whole;
Thank you, Lord, for giving to me --
Thy great salvation so rich and free."

Contrary to the teaching of the Colossian heretics (which taught that something more, additional, etc., was needed outside of Christ for complete salvation and forgiveness), God, in Colossians 1:13-15 reaffirms that our salvation is complete and full in Christ!

For such a salvation we should be thankful!

***God is worthy of our thanks!**

5 Reasons:

I. HE QUALIFIED US (v. 12)

(So that we could be fit for Heaven's home)

"Made us meet" = to make one qualified; sufficient; fit; enabled (cp. II Cor. 3:5-6)

In and of ourselves, we do not qualify for Heaven! We are not entitled to Heaven; we have no rights to go to Heaven!

But God in His loving grace qualified us for such a privilege.

"Partakers" = lit. to have a portion or part of an inherited lot in Heaven.

EX: Prudential Insurance has a commercial exhorting people to "get a piece of the rock."

In Christ, we have an eternal piece!

The saints' inheritance is in light, because God is light, and His radiance pervades Heaven!

I Jn. 1:5 - "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

I Tim. 6:16 - "Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen."

God's "light" is in contrast to Satan's "darkness." (v. 13)

II. HE RESCUED US (v. 13a)

(So that we could be far from Satan's darkness)

"Delivered" = to rescue

Jesus Christ is called "the deliverer."

Rom. 11:26 - "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion a Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob."

Jesus Christ refused deliverance from the cross, so that He might deliver us from the power of darkness (Mt. 27:43 - "He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.").

Jesus delivered (rescued) us from eternal death (II Cor. 1:10 - "Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us.").

Jesus delivers (rescues) our lives from utter ruin and evil (II Pet. 2:9 - "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.").

Jesus will deliver (rescue) us from the future wrath of God (via Rapture) (I Thes. 1:10 - "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come").

"From the power of darkness" = lit. "out of the authority of the darkness" (cp. Luke 22:53 - "This is your hour, and the power of darkness").

"Authority" = the ruling power

"The darkness" = the specific realm of Satan

Before conversion, we were under the rule of darkness. We were slaves to sin (Rom. 7). We were in bondage to Satan.

"Darkness" in Scripture points to:

1) spiritual blindness (ignorance) (Jn. 1:5; I Jn. 2:11; Acts 26:18)
2) a love for sin (Jn. 3:19)
3) falsehood (I Cor. 4:5)
4) the unregenerate world (II Cor. 6:14)
5) the realm of demons (Eph. 6:12)

NOTE: The aorist tense verbs "made us meet. . . delivered . . . translated" point to a once and for all (final and complete) salvation.

III. HE TRANSFERRED US (v. 13b)

(So that we could be found in Christ's kingdom)

Note the contrast: "Delivered from (ek) darkness"
"Translated into (eis) kingdom"

"Translated" = to transfer; to remove from one place and transplant to another. Lit. to change the place where one stands.

The word was often used to signify deportation of a body of men or the removal of them to form a colony (Eadie).

"This word was used to describe the deportation of a population from one country into another. History records the fact that Antiochus the Great transported at least 2,000 Jews from Babylonia and Colossae." (Wiersbe, p. 46)

Just as God rescued O.T. Israel from bondage in Egypt and transferred them into His promised land, so the Lord has rescued us from the bondage of the world, and has placed us (positionally) into the kingdom of His dear Son.

"Of His dear Son" - of the Son He loves (cp. Mt. 3:17; 17:5).

To love Jesus Christ is to love the One who is closest to the heart of God the Father.

IV. HE REDEEMED US (v. 14a)

(So that we could be free from sin's bondage)

"In whom" - refers to the "Son" (v. 13).
It is in Christ that we have (present tense) redemption.

Redemption - One who has a complete release based on the payment of a price.

The word redemption was used of the "deliverance of slaves from bondage or of prisoners of war from captivity" (Vaughan; p. 34).
NOTE: By His death Jesus did not pay a ransom to Satan to free us; but His death satisfied the holy demands of the Triune Godhead, and thereby God freed us

Is. 53:11 - "He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by His knowledge shall my righteous servant justify man; for he shall bear their iniquities."

"Redemption" = with the Greek prepositional prefix, this word is a strong word for redemption. It has not only the force of describing a ransom payment, but also includes the removal of the person once the ransom is appropriated by faith. God has accepted the payment of His Son and has subsequently yanked (pulled) the believer away from the penalty and dominating power of sin.

God has graciously liberated us from the guilt and doom of sin and has placed us into a life of liberty ("newness of life") (Rom. 6:4) (Vines, p. 264).

"Through His blood" (KJV) - the blood of Christ is the ransom price that was paid. Christ's bloody death is always referred to as the means by which we receive redemption.
I Pet. 1:18-19 - "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."
God said to the O.T. Jews, "Ye shall be redeemed without money" (Is. 52:3).

V. HE FORGAVE US (v. 14b)

(So that we could be free from sin's penalty)

"Forgiveness" = literally it means to send away, to leave, to let go (cp. Mt. 13:36; I Cor. 7:11-13).

When God forgives, He cancels the penalty and sends away (removes) the sin far from His holy presence. He no longer holds it against us.

The word "forgiveness" "speaks of the removal of our sins from us, so that they are no longer barriers which separate us from God." (Vaughan, p. 34).

"We have" (right now!) - For the Christian, forgiveness is not a blessing of the past. It's a reality of the present.

Though we commit sins in thought, word, and deed daily (and for these we need daily forgiveness to enjoy our salvation), we do not need to regain a position of purity and forgiveness before the eyes of God. We are forgiven!

Knowing we have been forgiven helps us enjoy our salvation! The feeling of being free is great!

"Forgiveness is not an excuse for sin; rather, it is an encouragement for obedience" (Wiersbe, p. 47).

He forgives our trespasses ("paraptoma: - Mt. 6:14; Eph. 1:7); our debts (Mt. 6:12); and our evil thoughts (cp. Acts 8:22).

In verse 14, the word is "hamartion" ("sins") - a reference to every time we have missed the mark of God's standard of perfection.

All sin is a missing of the mark, a coming short of the glory of God. Therefore, it needs to be forgiven.

Because God has forgiven us all our sins, "Satan cannot find anything in the files (of God) that will indict us!" (Wiersbe, p. 47).