

The Father's Gifts Through the Son

Colossians 1:12-14



Colossians 1:9-14

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who **has qualified you** to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He **has delivered 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.

Part of living a life that pleases the Lord is giving thanks for three gifts that come to us from the Father through the Son.

- The phrase “giving thanks to the father,” is a **present, active, participle**.
- It describes us by something that we are doing and continue to do.

⁹ And so, from the day we heard, we have not **ceased to pray** for you, **asking** that **you may be filled** with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰ **so as to walk** in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: **bearing fruit** in every good work and **increasing** in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ **being strengthened** with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹² **giving thanks** to the Father

9 Διὰ τοῦτο καὶ ἡμεῖς, ἀφ' ἧς ἡμέρας ἠκούσαμεν, οὐ **παύομεθα** ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν **προσευχόμενοι** καὶ **αἰτούμενοι**, ἵνα **πληρωθῇτε** τὴν ἐπίγνωσιν τοῦ θελήματος αὐτοῦ ἐν πάσῃ σοφίᾳ καὶ συνέσει πνευματικῇ, **10 περιπατῆσαι** ἀξίως τοῦ κυρίου εἰς πᾶσαν ἀρεσκείαν, ἐν παντὶ ἔργῳ ἀγαθῷ **καρποφοροῦντες** καὶ **αὐξανόμενοι** τῇ ἐπιγνώσει τοῦ θεοῦ, **11 ἐν πάσῃ δυνάμει δυναμούμενοι** κατὰ τὸ κράτος τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ εἰς πᾶσαν ὑπομονὴν καὶ μακροθυμίαν. μετὰ χαρᾶς **12 εὐχαριστοῦντες** τῷ πατρὶ. . . .

1. Thank the Father that you've been made fit for an inheritance.

¹² giving thanks to the Father, who **has qualified you** to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He **has delivered 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.

- The language here for receiving a share of an inheritance is the same as was used for the Israelites who **received a share** of the **Promised Land**.

Joshua 18:1-10

Then the whole congregation of the people of Israel assembled at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there. The land lay subdued before them.

² There remained among the people of Israel seven tribes whose inheritance had not yet been apportioned.

Joshua 18:1-10

³ So Joshua said to the people of Israel, “How long will you put off going in to take possession of the land, which the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you? ⁴ Provide three men from each tribe, and I will send them out that they may set out and go up and down the land. They shall write a description of it with a view to their **inheritances**, and then come to me. ⁵ They shall divide it into seven **portions**. Judah shall continue in his territory on the south, and the house of Joseph shall continue in their territory on the north. ⁶ And you shall describe the land in seven divisions and bring the description here to me. And I will cast lots for you here before the Lord our God.

Joshua 18:1-10

⁷ The Levites have no portion among you, for the priesthood of the Lord is their heritage. And Gad and Reuben and half the tribe of Manasseh have received their **inheritance** beyond the Jordan eastward, which Moses the servant of the Lord gave them.”

⁸ So the men arose and went, and Joshua charged those who went to write the description of the land, saying, “Go up and down in the land and write a description and return to me. And I will cast lots for you here before the Lord in Shiloh.” ⁹ So the men went and passed up and down in the land and wrote in a book a description of it by towns in seven divisions.

Joshua 18:1-10

Then they came to Joshua to the camp at Shiloh, ¹⁰ and Joshua cast lots for them in Shiloh before the Lord. And there Joshua **apportioned** the land to the people of Israel, to each his **portion**.

**THE TRIBAL ALLOTMENTS
OF ISRAEL**

JOSHUA 13:8-19:49

- City
- City (uncertain location)
- ▲ Mountain peak



Paul says that believers give thanks to the Father who has made us capable of having a share in what the people of God possess.

How do I qualify to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light?

In 2017 Forbes reported that the **British royal family** is collectively worth an estimated **\$88 billion** when looking at the crown's concrete assets in combination with the value of the family brand.



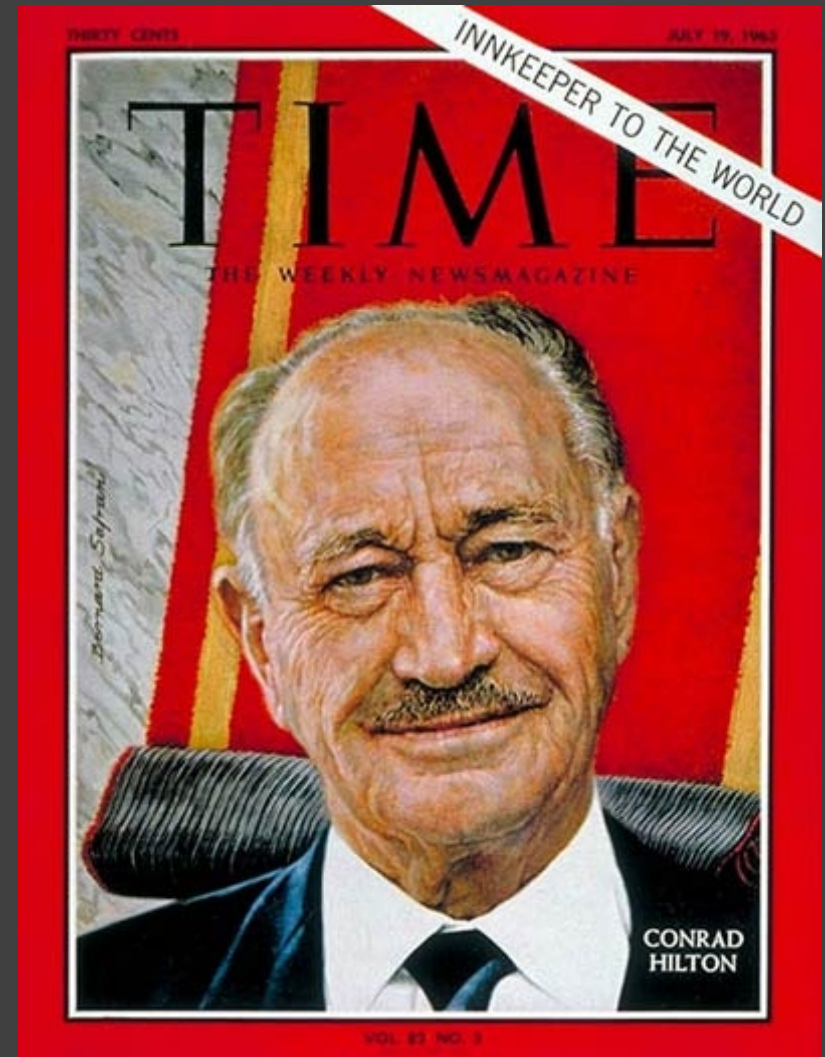
Prince George and his sister **Princess Charlotte** are third and fourth in the line of succession to the British throne.

Brandon Hilton died
in September 2019.

He was the son of
Conrad Hilton who
created the Hilton
Hotel empire.

He left an estate of
\$2.3 billion.

I didn't get a dime
of that!



To qualify for a share of the **\$89.7 billion** that belongs to the owners of the Mars candy company, you must be a descendant of **Frank Mars**.





To qualify for a share of the **\$151.5 billion** wealth that belongs to the world's largest family-owned company, Walmart, you must be a descendant of **Sam Walton**.

But to qualify for a share of **everything** the Lord has reserved for his people both now and in heaven, all you must do is to **believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.

Lamentations 3:24

“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, therefore I will hope in him.”

2. Thank the Father that you've been rescued from the dominion of darkness.

¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has delivered 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.

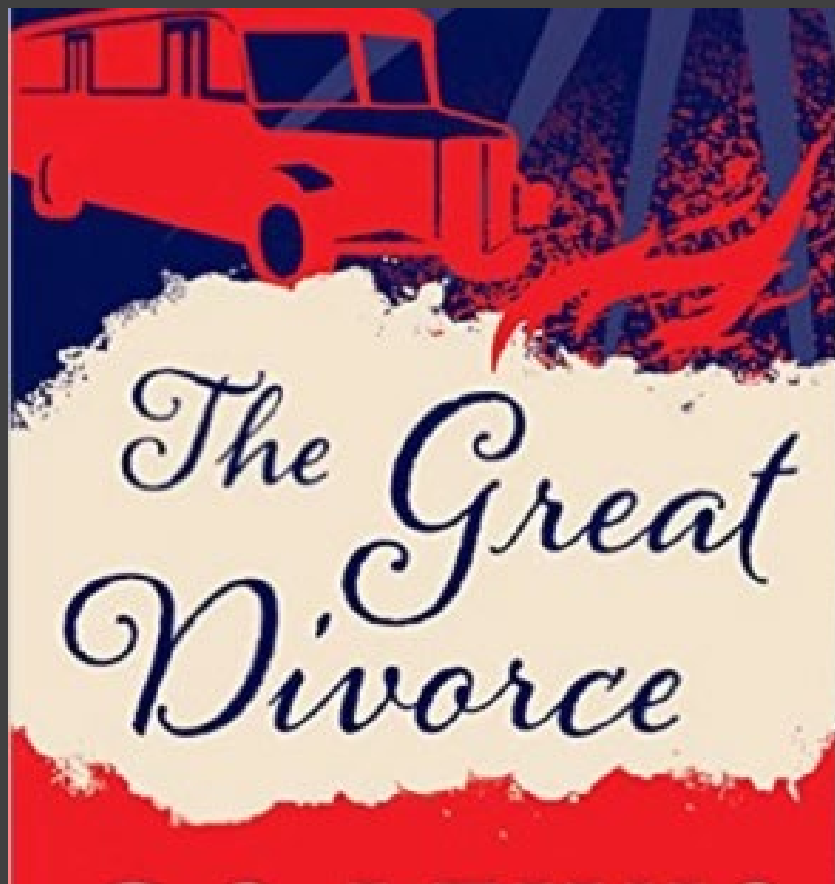
- You were born into a **fallen world** under the **dominion** of the **Prince of Darkness**.
- Like our father Adam, when you became old enough to choose between good and evil, you made the wrong choice and became a slave to sin.
- Your **greatest need** is to be **rescued** from that kingdom of darkness.

- Most sins take place in some kind of secret **darkness**, or at least that's where people try to commit them.
- I've never passed by a strip club that had windows. What happens in there happens in the **dark**.
- Men, mostly men, go there, at **night**.
- Some of them leave wives and children at home and go there to get drunk and watch naked women dance.



- You may not be frequenting strip clubs, but all of us have **secret places** where we entertain our fatal attractions, our heart idols.
- **None of us is as good and decent as we would like to believe.**







Your
thankfulness for
your rescue
depends on how
deeply you sense
your **lostness**
without Christ
and how
desperately you
need him to save
you.



3. Thank the Father that you've received a change of citizenship.

¹² giving thanks to the Father, who **has qualified you** to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He **has delivered 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.

The British preacher Alexander Maclaren called this third ground for thankfulness our **change of king and country.**



Vasile Tudor
Born a
citizen of
the Socialist
Republic of
Romania



Now an American citizen.

When Israel lived in Egypt, they were Pharaoh's slaves.

When God sent Moses to rescue them, God took them to a new land and, at least in the beginning, the Lord himself reigned over them as their sovereign.

When God
rescues you out of
the darkness, you
become a citizen of
the Kingdom of
Heaven.

When you die,
you move from a
colony of that
kingdom here on
earth to the capital
city in heaven.



Conclusion

- Notice that all these blessings belong to us because we are **in Christ**.

Colossians 1:13-14

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.

- The first three blessings for which believers give thanks are all in the Greek ***aorist tense***: they denote an action that has been **completed in the past**.
- But the verb in verse 14—“in whom we have”—is a ***present, active, indicative***.
- We have a **real, present, living union** with Christ.

- At the end of Colossians 1, Paul refers to the Gospel as “the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.”

Colossians 1:27

²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

In John 15, Jesus describes the *union* between himself and the believer as a *permanent, living connection* between a branch and the vine to which it belongs.



"I am the Vine and you are the branches."

In that living union
between the Vine
and its branches, *the
vine supplies* all the
life-giving sap the
branch needs to
produce much fruit.



Col 3:1–4.

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and **your life is hidden with Christ in God.** ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.