**Rejoice in Your Redeemer**

Colossians 1:12-14

**Introduction**

Paul wrote to encourage the Colossians to realize they should find their fulfillment in Christ alone. They are complete in Christ. When they received the gospel, they received everything they needed for life: forgiveness for their past, security for their future, and the ability to change in their present. Paul’s prayer was that the Colossians would have spiritual understanding, which leads to spiritual living. “Genuine Christian theology is the exploration of God’s character and actions, not in a spirit of speculation and curiosity, but out of gratitude and love, with the intention of and desire for obedience. (Wright)”

Spiritual living yields spiritual results; it results in fruitful lives, closeness to God, joyful steadfastness and strength through adversities, and thankfulness. Believers who live their lives on the basis of spiritual truth find multiple reasons for thanksgiving and appreciation for what God has done and is doing. In this section of his letter, Paul gives thanks for some great truths about God and His redemptive work that are closely connected. He is thankful for the redemptive work of the Father and the Son; he is thankful for Jesus as our Creator; he is thankful for Jesus as our Leader; he is thankful for Jesus as the One who reconciled us to God; he is thankful to the point of doing ministry.

Just like the Colossians, you have reason to give thanks for the redemptive work of God in your life. “Yeah, but what about my past?” “You don’t know my present situation.” “You have no idea what is coming to my future.” Paul answers all of these excuses and doubts with this simple truth: Rejoice in your Redeemer.

1. **The Father has qualified us to be a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light. (v. 12)** 
   1. So much of our lives have to do with our qualifications.
2. To be qualified is to have a skill or attribute necessary for an activity; to become legally eligible for a position or privilege.
3. Drivers have to qualify for the Daytona 500 (and sometimes we drive like are trying to qualify!). A young man may have to qualify with a girl’s dad for courtship or dating. There are qualification requirements to be accepted in a certain school, for a job position, to play sports at a professional level, to serve in the military, etc.
   1. But we’re not talking about acceptance among men; we are considering acceptance with God.
4. What qualifies you to stand with approval in His presence?
5. Are you qualified to receive an inheritance with the saints in light? Are you eligible? What makes you fit to be known as part of His people? Would your application for citizenship in Heaven be accepted?
6. What credentials do you bring? Will He accept your church membership? Will He be impressed with your baptism certificate? Will He see you as qualified based on your argument that you are not as bad as others?
7. Are you Jewish? Are you of the seed of Abraham?
8. If so, are you sinless?
   1. It does not take much time to process the information and to see that we are unqualified.
9. The adjective has to do with measuring up; having enough; being worthy. (Matthew 8:8, Mark 1:7, I Corinthians 15:9)
10. Jesus did not have a problem with those who knew they were unqualified to be His people; He had issue with those who thought they were qualified by their good works or heritage.
11. We cannot qualify ourselves.
    1. Christ qualified us!
12. He has made us part of His people—Gentiles and Jews together!
13. He has “made us meet”—to make sufficient; to qualify; to make adequate or competent for something.
14. We have an inheritance because He has brought us to light.
15. **The Father has delivered us from the power of darkness by placing us under the authority of His Son.**
    1. Delivered – to bring someone out of severe and acute danger; to save; to rescue.
    2. Power – authority; right to rule; government; control, dominion; tyranny.
    3. Darkness - the realm of sin and evil. Wickedness is a present day reality.
    4. The Father has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.
16. Translated – to remove from one place to another (1 Corinthians 13:2); to transfer; to bring to a different view, as causing someone to change sides mentally or spiritually; to cause a change of state, with emphasis upon the difference in the resulting state.
17. Kingdom – realm; domain; that which is ruled by royalty.
18. His dear Son – the Son God loves.
19. “Through Christ they were brought from a rebel kingdom and placed under the sovereignty of their rightful King.” (Geisler)
20. **In the kingdom of His dear Son, there is redemption.** 
    1. Redemption
21. Defined by the dictionary: buying back of a slave or captive through payment of a ransom; hence, to set free, release, liberate, unshackle, unfetter, or emancipate.
22. Applied to us Biblically: to rescue from sin; deliverance (Romans 3:24); to release the body from earthly limitations and mortality; liberation (Romans 8:23).
23. Christ is the One who sets free from sin.
24. He is the Redeemer and Deliverer. (1Corinthians 1:30-31).
25. Our liberation demanded a ransom: His blood. (Hebrews 9:22, I Peter 1:18-19)
26. His redemption grants the forgiveness of our sins; it is the release from an obligation, a pardon, a cancellation of guilt; remission. (Matthew 26:28, Luke 4:18, Luke 24:47, Acts 10:43, Acts 13:38-39, Acts 26:18, Ephesians 1:7)
27. “It involves not a passing over or overlooking of sins as in the old covenant (Romans 3:25), but the removal of sins from the mind of God, a taking away, a letting them go as if they had not been committed.” (Hebrews 10:18, Colossians 2:13-14) (Thayer)
28. “It is extremely important to note that the focus in the meanings of [redemption] and [forgiveness] is upon the guilt of the wrongdoer and not upon the wrongdoing itself. The event of wrongdoing is not undone, but the guilt resulting from such an event is pardoned. To forgive, therefore, means essentially to remove the guilt resulting from wrongdoing.” (Low/Nida)
29. **Central Idea: Paul made it clear that the Colossians had reason to give thanks because of the redemptive work of God in their lives.** 
    1. As a believer, you have multiple reasons to give Him thanks!
30. He qualified you; He delivered you; He transferred you; He bought you back and set you free; He released you from the guilt of your past.
31. You should give Him thanks! Redemption is a future hope with a present reality.
    1. What is it that determines whether or not you rejoice?
32. Imagine we are at a sporting event, and one team is winning. Some people are going crazy; others are not. Those who are rejoicing understand what is going on, care about what is going on, and are paying attention to what is going on. If someone is not rejoicing, either they are on the losing team, they don’t understand what’s going on, they don’t care about what’s going on, or they are distracted and not paying attention.
33. Imagine we are in the song service of Hillcrest Baptist Church. The song leader leads us in a couple of the great hymns of the faith. Some are singing heartily; others are not. Some are not rejoicing or praising His name because they do not know about His redemption; they have not been rescued by God in Christ and live in chaos. Some are not rejoicing because they are distracted by other things in life. Some are allowing others and circumstances to rob them of their praise.
34. The determination of whether or not you rejoice is your understanding, your appreciation, and your attention.
    1. While you may not face pressure from the religious elite like the Colossians did, you may have those about you who are focused on man’s philosophy of life that would spoil and rob your joy.
35. You may think you can’t rejoice because you are still under the guilt or power of sin, or that your acceptance is based on your performance.
36. You need to understand what happened in your life through the finished work of Christ, appreciate what God has done, and focus on what is most important.

**Conclusion:** Reflect on the work of the Redeemer and rejoice!