

#3 Colossians

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Last time we ended with Colossians 1:12: 'giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.'

God the Father chose each one of us, true children of God, before He laid the foundations of the World; before He had created anything, He chose each and every one in whom He would place His precious gift of faith to believe. Paul makes clear, throughout his letters, that apart from God's election and gift of faith, every person born has been, from their conception, dead in sin, that is, dead spiritually. Adam and Eve had been created in the image of God, Who is tripartite, that is, the one true God exists as three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. When He created Adam and Eve, they, too, were tripartite as a living soul within a spiritual body within a physical body of flesh. God warned them that in the day they chose to rebel and sin, some part of them would die and that part was their spiritual self; no longer could they interact within the spiritual realm; now they were just a living soul within a physical body, spiritually dead.

Paul makes it clear that in our spiritually dead condition, we are completely unable to hear, see or understand in any way, anything of the Spirit of God; to the unregenerate, those still dead in sin, the things of God, His Spirit and His Word are complete and utter foolishness; they are blind and deaf to anything of the Spirit.

What God did is, He reached out to each of us and awakened our deaf, blind, dead selves and allowed us to begin to believe. Then, in response to the Gospel, we were enabled to come to Him in saving faith to be born again unto Eternal Life through the Lord Jesus Christ.

When God saves us, when He causes our spirits to come to life so that we can interact and commune with His Holy Spirit, He cleanses our souls and spirits and causes us to be holy and righteous with the absolute righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. The only part of ourselves left to be remade in holy perfection are our physical bodies; that will happen, one day soon, at the moment of the Rapture.

'For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.'
2 Cor 5:21

That is how 'He **qualified** us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.' At the same time, He brought us into the everlasting Kingdom of Light, the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. Although we remain, while still on Earth, within the kingdom of darkness, we are no longer under its domination; we are free; we can now walk in the light as He is in the Light; His Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Those around us wander in darkness. Jesus Christ paid the full price for our redemption; He redeemed us. It's like going back to the pawnshop and paying the full price plus interest for the item which had been sold into slavery and confinement. We had been sold into slavery to sin and death. The price of our redemption was that someone related to us, a human, a son of Adam, had to live a perfect and sinless life, obeying every requirement of the Law, from the largest to the smallest and it had to be accomplished with a heart of complete humility, submission and patience... and then, that One had to be willing to submit to offering His own sinless body, to receive the full penalty, punishment and wrath which we so richly deserved.

Verse 13: 'He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of His love,'

We have been delivered from one thing and conveyed into another... and the two are completely different. The Lost are in bondage to sin and to Satan; when we put our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and were born again, we were set free; we passed from death unto life, from bondage unto freedom and from darkness unto light. Now we are Children of Light; we are the Light of the World.

Jesus said, 'You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.' Matt 5:14
Satan is the god of this World; he is the prince of darkness ruling over the kingdom of darkness; everyone in the World who is not born again is in the kingdom of darkness, in deep darkness.

'Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon thee. ² For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. ³ And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.' Isa 60
The World is in darkness, not just dim or shadowy, but in deep, thick darkness and they see only the things of darkness. In fact, most of them hate the light because they love their deeds of darkness.

'And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.' John 3:19

They remain in darkness until God opens their eyes and they begin to see and the thing that they will see is us; we are the light of the World. If one is in darkness, complete darkness, they can see even a small light and though it is very far away they will come to the light. Those in darkness, except those who love darkness, will always come to the light; they will see it and come straight for it. Those whose eyes are being opened, by God, will come to the light seeking the truth but far too many of us are unable to tell them the truth. False teachers are telling us that we don't even need to know how to tell them the truth; just our 'good' lifestyle is enough to bring them to Salvation; nothing could be further from the truth.

We are commanded to go out into the dark World and tell them the Truth; to do so, we must know the Truth and how to clearly explain the Truth, the Gospel.

Our testimony is our most powerful weapon in our arsenal against Satan. The Truth we have to offer is:

Verse 14: '(Jesus Christ) in Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.'

That is what they seek; 'How can I be forgiven, how can I be saved?' We must know the true Gospel. False teachers don't like to talk about our having been redeemed through His blood. The shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is a very offensive thing, as is that He was crucified in our place and that God's Wrath was poured out on Him instead of us. All of that is offensive but it is the heart of the Gospel.

When the Bible says that we have been redeemed, that we have the forgiveness of sins, it means just and fully that. We have been redeemed and forgiven... period! Every sin of ours, past present and future, was completely forgiven at the Cross. He was punished for every sin so that we never will be, not even for one. This is something that many Christians cannot grasp. They are not being punished for their past sin; God never punishes His children; He only corrects and disciplines; there is a huge difference. Some of our Earthly fathers punished us so that we then wrongly assume that God does the same; He does not. He forgave us completely; all our sin was forgiven at the Cross. He will never remember it and we will never be reminded of it...ever!

'Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: ³ Who forgives all your iniquities... Who heals all your diseases, ⁴ Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies, He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as the Heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; ¹² As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father pities *his* children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him. Ps 103

Verse 15a: 'He is the image of the invisible God,'

The Greek words are: **eikon**: icon, image, statue, likeness; and, **aoiatos**: invisible, unseen.

This is saying two very important things: first that God, the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ is exactly like the unseen, God the Father. But it is also saying that the unseen, God the Father is exactly like the Lord Jesus Christ. They are not THE same, but they are the SAME. They are not the same person but both persons are the same.

Don't bother trying to clearly understand it... theologians have been wrestling with it for 2000 years. To prove that the One God is Three distinct persons, we need look no further than Matt 3:16: 'When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Jesus said, 'If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father.' He said that when He was on Earth, before His Crucifixion and Resurrection into His Glorified Eternal Body... even then, He was the exact image and likeness

of God the Father. The Lord Jesus Christ isn't sort of like God the Father with 'some' of His attributes as if, between the Three of Them, there is an equitable distribution of assets and abilities, each with His *fair share*. No, each One is fully God. The Lord Jesus Christ is fully God but He is also fully Man; He is the only One Who can act both as Priest and King: as King, bringing God to man and as Priest, bringing man to God.

Just because God the Father is unseen, it doesn't mean that He *can't be seen* or that He does not have form. Before the Lord Jesus Christ took on human flesh He appeared to Abraham, Jacob and others as the Angel of the Lord. When Moses was on My Sinai, he was not allowed to see God, lest he die but God was there. When Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Micah and John, in visions, saw God the Father on His Throne, they were not allowed to see Him clearly but mostly as Light shining forth and yet, they could tell that He was seated on His Throne. Even though He is 'Spirit,' God the Father sits, has legs, arms, hands, a face... remember, in Revelation 5, He handed the scroll to the Lamb.

When God made Adam, He said, 'Let Us make Man in Our image.' As God is Tripartite, He made Adam and Eve tripartite, a living soul within a spiritual body within a fleshly body. I don't believe the spiritual realm was invisible to Adam and Eve at the beginning. However, when they sinned, they died spiritually and consequently they became blind and deaf to the spiritual realm and we remain so until the moment of the Rapture when 'we shall see Him as He is and we shall be like Him.' 1 Jn 3:2

Throughout the Millennium and Eternity, we will rule and reign as the Bride of Christ, as princes and princesses unto God, His very Own Children, but we will never be too big or too cool to always want to climb up into His Lap for a little private chat.

Verse 15b: (He is) 'the firstborn over all creation.'

This is a title of honor and preeminence as in the firstborn Son being worthy of the entire inheritance; it doesn't refer to His 'birth' into a human body.

He has the title of honor, of ownership, of Lordship over all that is, over every created thing, both seen and unseen, both physical and spiritual. When He finally reconciles everything back to God, the Father, there will no longer be any differentiation between physical and spiritual... like it was before Adam and Eve sinned.

Verse 16: 'For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.' All things were created through Him and for Him.

¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.'

This is now explaining the why of the previous verse, His title of '*Firstborn over all creation*.'

Every created thing; all that is in the Universe, physical and spiritual, seen and unseen... everything except God Himself, Father, Son and Holy Spirit... it was all created by the Lord Jesus Christ and He is the only One Who is holding it all together; without that, it would all fly apart, down to and including the molecules, atoms and atomic particles; their opposite electric charges would cause everything to blast apart, in an instant, in an unimaginably huge explosion... just like what Peter said will happen when He destroys the present creation and recreates it all new: 'But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. ¹¹ Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved...' 1 Pet 3:10

That is the moment the Lord Jesus Christ will withdraw His '*holding together*' power over creation.

He is 'Firstborn over all creation,' He owns it all because He created it all.

Verse 16b: 'whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.'

Every Earthly king and ruler, every foolish mayor, every demon power ruling over every principality, every human, every angel and every spirit of every kind... He owns them all because He created them all... every demon and evil spirit... He created them all, so common sense would dictate that they weren't evil when they were first created because we can assume that God does not create evil. We understand that every angel was once good though 1/3 of them rebelled with Lucifer and have become demon powers but what about every other kind of evil spirit... when and what were they, at one time way back when?

Many believe their beginnings were in Lucifer's kingdom before his rebellion and fall. Remember, in Isaiah 14, God says, 'How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! *How* you are cut down to the

ground, you who weakened the nations! ¹³ For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, **I will exalt my throne** above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' ¹⁵ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit.' You'll notice, he had a throne... he was ruling over a kingdom... it's thought that Lucifer ruled over the Earth and possibly this entire solar system, the Sun and nine planets, before his rebellion and then God destroyed everything, turning it all into a vast, void wasteland... but that is all another study for a different time... don't take it as doctrine... it's a theory to make sense of a lot of loose ends that God has not yet clearly tied up for us... but one day we will begin to learn all the secrets of the Universe. It's called '*The Gap Theory*,' meaning, a gap of time between Gen 1:1 and 1:2: 'And the Earth **was** without form and void...' that Hebrew word for '**was**,' can be translated, '**became**,' and the Earth **became** without form and void.' We ask ourselves, 'Does God create things that are without form and void?' Does it make sense that He would have created the other 8 planets as barren wastelands? 'For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, **He established it and did not create it a waste place**, but formed it to be inhabited), Isaiah 45:18. If He did not create it **a 'waste place' or, void**, how did it get that way? Why should He have created the Earth in stages... if He didn't create anything else in stages, humans, for instance... certainly we don't believe in macro-evolution.

Like I say, another study for another time... don't report me to the authorities.

Verse 18: 'And He is the head of the body, the church, Who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.'

Firstborn here means, He went before us, through death, so that we would never have to. He died for us, He left His Earthly body and went down to *Sheol, the place of the dead*, for us so that when we die, if we do before the Rapture, we will never have to go anywhere but to immediately be in the presence of the Lord. He was punished for us and He died for us. He was resurrected for us so that we would be, also, immediately. He is the Head of the Body and we are all then parts of the Body, the Church. We are one with Him and we will never be separated from Him, now and forever.

He is preeminent in all things. He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords, the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end; He is before all things and over all things and we will share in all things as His co-heirs.

Verse 19: 'For it pleased *the Father* that in Him all the fullness should dwell,' Not only was the Lord Jesus Christ fully God and fully Man but all the fullness of God was in Him even while He was on Earth in His human body before His Crucifixion and Resurrection into His Glorified Eternal Body.

Paul wrote, 'Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.' Phipp 2:5

The NASB says, 'He emptied Himself.' Some think that Paul is saying that He laid aside His deity or His power or His knowledge. None of that is Biblical. He always has been God, the Son and He never was any less so.

Verse 20: '...and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.' Rom 8:19 says, 'For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God... creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.'

Jesus Christ reconciled all creation back to God, the Father, at the Cross but we won't see its complete fulfillment until after the Millennium. Until then, all creation cries out, groaning, saying, 'We can't wait until the Children of God, who will rule and reign over us, are revealed at Jesus Christ's Second Coming! Hurry!' We cry out, 'Come quickly, Lord Jesus!' All Creation cries out, 'Come quickly, children of God! Deliver us from the oppressor!' We will share in Jesus Christ's Glory while all Creation will share in our glorious liberty.