

1. Identify four great blessings from God the Father found in our text.

Col 1:12-14 – giving thanks to **the Father** who **has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light**. 13 **He has delivered us from the power of darkness & conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love**, 14 in whom **we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins**.

{Commentary below: Barnes, Clarke, JFB, Henry, & Wycliffe}

- 1) *“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light...” (1:12).*

**This** is another way we may *“walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing”* (Col 1:10); by rendering appropriate thanks to God our “Father” as the Author of the whole plan of salvation.

[Who hath made us meet] – Means *to make sufficient or to qualify* for the blessing he is about to announce

[To be partakers of the inheritance] – *An allusion to the division of the Promised Land* by lot among the different families of the twelve Israelite tribes; the inheritance was the lot or inheritance belonging to the tribe. Our inheritance is a joint one, of which each saint has his “portion” (Acts 20:32; 26:18; Eph 1:11).

[Of the saints in light] – This *inheritance is called* in Col 1:13, *“the kingdom of his dear Son.”* It is a kingdom of light, as opposed to the kingdom of darkness in which they formerly lived.

### Why is it a kingdom of light?

**God** presides over it, & He “is light, & in him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5); **Christ** is “the light of man” (John 1:4); **He** is “the true light” (John 1:9); **He** is “the light of the world” (John 8:12; John 12:35; Luke 2:32). **Angels** of that kingdom are “angels of light” (2 Cor 11:14). *Those who compose that kingdom* on earth are “the children of light” (Luke 16:8; 1 Thess 5:5). *All the descriptions* of that kingdom in heaven represent it as filled with light (Isa 60:19; Rev 20:23; 22:5).

2) *“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness” (1:13).*

[Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness] – *The power exerted over us in that dark kingdom* to which we formerly belonged—the kingdom of Satan.

**He** has rescued us from the state of darkness & wickedness. **He** hath saved us from the dominion of sin, which is darkness (1 John 1:6), from the dominion of Satan, who is the prince of darkness (Eph 6:12), & from the damnation of hell, which is utter darkness” (Matt 25:30). **Christians**, by the gospel, have been called out of darkness (1 Peter 2:9).

3) *“And hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son” (1:13).*

[And hath translated us] – **The** sense of removing a people from one country to another – It means, here, that *they who are Christians have been transferred from one kingdom to another*. **They** become subjects of a new kingdom, are under different laws, & belong to a different community. **This** change is made in regeneration, by which we pass from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light; from the empire of sin, ignorance, & misery, to one of holiness, knowledge, & happiness (Barnes)

**He** has thoroughly changed our state, brought us out of the dark region of vice & impiety, & placed us in the kingdom under the government of his dear Son the Son of his love; the person whom, in his infinite love, he has given to make an atonement for the sin of the world (Clarke).

4) *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins (1:14).*

[In whom we have redemption] – *He has paid down the redemption price*, even his own blood, that our sins might be canceled, & we made fit to be partakers of the inheritance among the saints in light.

[The forgiveness of sins] – The *taking away of sins; all the power, guilt, & infection of sin*; all sin of every kind, with all its influence & consequence

a. Who may receive these blessings (1:2, 12)?

Saints & Faithful brethren

2. What do the passages below tell us about this inheritance?

a. 2 Cor 5:1-3

It is a permanent eternal habitation.

A building from God, a house not made with hands

Paul groaned for it earnestly desiring it, so it is much to be desired over our present state in the earthly life

b. Heb 4:1; 6:18-20; 11:10, 16, 26

It is the true land of rest

It is in the presence of God where Jesus went at His ascension; it is the substance of our hope beyond this life

It is a city built by God, which while we are in this life we must wait for it

It is a desirable country because it is better country; it is a better country because it is a heavenly country

It is the reward for God's faithful servants

c. 1 Pet 1:4, 5, 9

It is an incorruptible & undefiled inheritance that does not fade away reserved in heaven

It constitutes the end or goal of our faith in Christ Jesus: the salvation of the soul.

d. Rev 2:10; 21:3-5; 22:1-5

It is the dwelling place of those who receive the “crown of life” by being faithful to the Savior

It is a holy city where God tabernacles with men & calls them His people

It is a place of comfort after being released from the sorrows of the world

3. Relate the passages below to this phrase: “He has delivered us from the power of darkness”.

a. Acts 26:13-18

Saul’s commission – Christ’s plan for Saul after his conversion

b. Rom 6:17-18

Set free from sin to become servants of righteousness

c. Eph 2:1-3

Made alive after being dead in sins & trespasses

4. “Translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”

a. What does “translated” mean?

To transfer or to carry away

Found in: \* **Luke 16:4** – “putting out” \* **Acts 13:22** – “the removal” \* **Acts 19:26** – “turning away” \* **1 Cor 13:2** – “removing”

b. We are “brought over” into a relationship where Jesus is King & Lord (1 Tim 6:15) & we are citizens (Phil 3:20).

c. It is a relationship where Jesus is head & we are the body (Col 1:18).

d. It is a relationship where Jesus is the foundation (1 Cor 3:11) & we are God’s field, God’s building (1 Cor 3:9) & the temple of God (1 Cor 3:16).

e. It is a relationship where Jesus is the purchaser or buyer (Acts 20:28) & we are the purchased or bought (1 Cor 6:20).

## 5. What is redemption (1:14)?

REDEMPTION – apolutrosis;

**Releasing** on payment of a ransom for a slave or debtor (**Heb 9:15**; Robertson)

**Liberation** from the guilt & doom of sin, & the introduction into a life of liberty (**Rom 6:4**; Vine's)

**Lev 27:1-5** (Redeeming Persons and Property Dedicated to God)

"Now the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When a man consecrates by a vow certain persons to the LORD, according to your valuation, 3 if your valuation is of a male from twenty years old up to sixty years old, then your valuation shall be fifty shekels of silver, according to the shekel of the sanctuary. 4 If it is a female, then your valuation shall be thirty shekels; 5 and if from five years old up to twenty years old, then your valuation for a male shall be twenty shekels, and for a female ten shekels;

**Barnes** – The vow of a person was perhaps most frequently made in cases of illness or danger, under the impulse of religious feeling, either in the way of thankfulness for blessings received, or of supplication for something desired. A man might dedicate himself, his wife, his child, or his bondservant. This might have been an old custom; but the Law ordained that he who had taken such a vow should pay a sum of money to the sanctuary, determined according to the age and sex of the person.

**Nathaniel Micklem** – A free translation of the passage might be: "When a man makes a special vow, the persons involved shall be reckoned by you as belonging unto the Lord" (Wycliffe Bible Commentary)