

Sermon Reflections

The Duty and Delight of Thanksgiving (Colossians 1:9-14)

Summary: As His creation, we have a duty to give thanks to our Creator. But, more than this, we delight in giving thanks to our God, our Savior.

Passage Context:

- In verses 1-11, how is Paul's own thankfulness expressed? In verses 9-11, what is the foundation of thanksgiving?

Four Reasons We Delight in God with Thanksgiving:

1. He Fit Us for the Inheritance of Heaven (v. 12)

- What qualities did God see in you that caused Him to save you? How should you view yourself, or carry yourself, in light of this truth? How should this impact your view of God?
- In what ways were you like the prodigal son? Specifically, what were you chasing after? How did you react when you heard the Good News that God would still receive you?

2. He Rescued Us from the Domain of Darkness (v. 13a)

- Before coming to Christ, how would you have responded if somebody said that you lived in a "domain of darkness"? Consequently, how did you view your life?
- Read Ephesians 2:1-3 and 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10. Where are those in the domain of darkness heading? Why is it important to consider our former destination? What else should these sobering truths cause us to do, beyond being thankful for our own salvation?

3. He Transferred Us into the Kingdom of Christ (v. 13b)

- God has delivered you from darkness, but for what purpose? Now that you are in Christ's kingdom, what does God require of you?
- Read Exodus 6:2-8 and 19:4-6. Why did God free Israel from Egypt? What was God's ultimate priority through the Exodus (cf. Exodus 7:16)?
- What is the significance of being in the Kingdom of God's *beloved* Son? What does this say about God's affections for His people, even you?

4. He Redeemed Us through the Forgiveness of Sin (v. 14)

- How could God rightly love sinners if He, in His perfect justice, punishes sin? (Read Isaiah 59:1-2.)
- Have you ever struggled with uncertainty of your salvation? Read Colossians 2:13-14 and John 19:30. How do these verses assure you that there is no longer a separation between you and God?