

What Qualifies Us to Share in the Eternal Inheritance from God?

Colossians 1:9-14

9: For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives,

10: so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,

11: being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience,

12: and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

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.



Introduction:

Today's portion of scripture is a beautiful prayer written by the apostle Paul. Paul had never personally met the Colossians whom he was praying for. But he knew that they were being threatened by false teachings and ideas that de-emphasized Christ and His saving work. Instead of Jesus, people were being encouraged to put their confidence in knowledge and outward obedience. Paul did not say these were unimportant, but his prayer clarified very beautifully the source of knowledge and obedience that leads to true growth and maturity. Paul also confirmed the only basis for being qualified to share in all the wonderful blessings prepared by God. The Bible talks about these blessings as an inheritance (vs. 12). What qualifies us to share in the eternal inheritance from God?

Is Our Qualification in Knowledge?

Vs.9

Knowledge alone will not qualify us to share in the eternal inheritance of God. Are you looking to knowledge and education to qualify yourself to share in God's blessing? The message of the Bible may seem like foolishness to those who value things like status, reputation, knowledge or wealth as merits for salvation. Perhaps in your study of the Bible you have felt you cannot make a commitment to follow Jesus until you completely understand everything the Bible teaches. We will never completely understand all that God has to tell us in His word. There is always more to know about God and His will for us. The Bible encourages all to seek wisdom. And the Bible

tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. To fear the Lord is to worship Him and to enter into a personal relationship with him. Together

knowledge, the result will also be growth in practical obedience. Both knowledge and obedience are the work of God's Spirit in our heart. He

believing or hoping that your own righteousness will qualify you to share in God's blessings? Most people would admit that they have some sin in their

lives. But they convince themselves that they have more good than bad and that somehow the good is going to outweigh the bad. Some think that they could never be good enough to be a Christian. Others think they can be good enough to be a Christian. Both ways of thinking are in reality self-centered and focused on self-centered qualifications. Both lead away from God and what truly qualifies us for His eternal inheritance. Our



with God we can continue the exciting journey of knowing Him. By God's Spirit the believer is filled with the knowledge of His will and given spiritual wisdom and understanding.

The Bible tells us to come to God as a child in simple dependence, trust and faith.

As Christian we never outgrow our need of Christ and His saving work. It is very important that we have a daily fresh awareness of our need of the gospel. We are to continually come to God as little children in need of His love and grace. A healthy child also grows and learns and believers should too. As we grow in spiritual

leads us in a deeper understanding and experience of what God has done for us. One of the mysteries of God's grace at work in our lives is that the more we grow, the more we realize we need to grow.

Is Our Qualification in Living Right? Vs. 10, 11

Living what we consider a moral and righteous life will not qualify us to receive the eternal inheritance of God. Are you be-

qualifications are found in Him and not ourselves. Even as Christians we can easily lose sight of our need of Christ and his qualifications. When this happens we think we are qualified by what we do rather



than what Christ has done for us. We may be gifted people

and accomplish great things. Our knowledge and obedience may be very extensive. But if our service is not accompanied by the fruit of the Spirit found in Christ such as love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, kindness and self-control, it is incomplete and destructive (1 Corinthians 13). Spiritual knowledge and giftedness without personal character is empty. Giftedness alone will not prevent sin and self-centeredness. But the fruit of the Spirit will 'crowd out' sin and self-centeredness in our hearts as we walk with God daily in repentance and faith. God gives His power so that we may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way, bearing fruit in every good work. Great endurance and patience, joy and thanksgiving characterize a life lived in fellowship with God. God works in and through those who trust in Him to produce the fruit of His grace.

We Need to be Rescued!

Vs. 12-14

Perhaps you have seen dramatic rescues on TV. The person being rescued was usually in a hopeless situation. Apart from the intervention of another, they were unable to do anything to save themselves. In the great Hanshin and Tohoku earthquakes, many people were injured and trapped under collapsed houses and build-

ings. Those who were pulled from the rubble owed their lives to the labor and skill of others. They were unable to help themselves.

sonal saving work of Christ on their behalf.

The rescue came from God to us. Through personal faith in what Jesus has accomplished



God's rescue plan meant He sent His only begotten son to live the righteous life we could not lead. He died in our place taking the penalty of sins we deserved. And he rose from the dead victoriously proclaiming salvation accomplished. God's rescue plan is complete and rests totally on the basis of Christ's qualifications. By His life, death and resurrection Jesus met all the holy demands of God's law.

We need to be rescued!

Through Christ a great rescue has taken place!

God rescues people from the guilt and penalty of sin.

God rescues people from spending eternity apart from Him.

God rescues people by the per-

there is redemption and the forgiveness of sins. A wonderful spiritual inheritance is guaranteed because of Christ's merit.

An inheritance is a gift.

Christians inherit all that Christ accomplished for them! They have become heirs with Christ and their eternal future is secure. They do not contribute anything to the work of Christ. Their inheritance is all based on the work of Christ on their behalf.

The blessings from God are an inheritance that will last throughout eternity. All this is because we have been brought into the kingdom of the Son He loves. All this is the result of being rescued by God! It is all of God's mercy and

grace. That is why there is great joy and thanksgiving to God.

There is great reason to be thankful. Those for whom Christ died owe their lives to Him. There is great offense in being indifferent. For the Christian, if we are not thankful for what Christ has done in love for us, then what is the moti-

uating factor in our love and service to God? Our zeal is obtained and sustained by the love of Christ. **What is it that can remind you of the love of God in Christ each day?**

Years ago, a passenger boat went aground while traveling near the shore of one of America's Great Lakes. A particular man who was part of the life saving squad personally rescued seventeen passengers from the icy cold waters. The extreme efforts of that day permanently damaged his health. Several years later when he died, it was noted that not one of the seventeen persons he had saved ever came to thank him.



For those whom Jesus personally rescued from sin and its deadly consequences, may life not be characterized by ungratefulness and ingratitude.

For those who have yet to believe — ***we cannot bring any qualification on our part to God for His salvation. We must rely on His mercy and grace.***

The Bible tells us that "to all who re-

ceived Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to be called children of God" (John 1:12)

...Children of God who are being filled with the spiritual knowledge and wisdom of God.

...Children of God who are growing in their walk with God and learning what it means to please Him.

...Children of God who are joint heirs with Christ to an awesome eternal spiritual inheritance that is secure (Romans 8:16).



Only Jesus qualifies us to share in the eternal inheritance from God.

May we look to Him for our rescue.

May we look to Him to grow in spiritual wisdom and obedience that is pleasing to God.

Let's pray,

Dear Father in heaven, Thank you for taking the initiative to rescue sinners. Your word shows us ourselves as we really are. Help us all to see our unworthiness and inadequacy. Your word points us to Jesus as he really is.

Thank you for His sufficiency in all our needs.

He is the loving Savior able to rescue us completely

Lead us to Christ

Enable us to grow in spiritual knowledge and understanding.

Enable us to grow in practical obedience.

Help us to know Your will and to understand it.

May we bear good fruit by

your Spirit.

May we grow in endurance and patience.

Thank you that our eternal inheritance is

secure in Christ.

We pray all this in Jesus' name, Amen.