

“Giving The Lord Preeminence”
October 1, 2023

Scripture Text: Colossians 1:11-15 ESV **11** being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. **13** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. **15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Apostle Paul is reminding the Saints at Colossae and us to be filled with the knowledge of God’s will which gives believers a full understanding of God’s purpose. When we willingly submit to the ***Will of God***, without fail, the fruit of the Holy Spirit is produced in our lives (love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control). Well, What is the will of God? I’m glad that you asked! **First**, a person must ***recognize*** that God created mankind for relationship. Willful sin in the Garden of Eden severed that intimate relationship with God. **Second**, God willingly gave His Son to be the ultimate sin offering to restore our relationship with Him by the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. **Third**, it is ***God’s Will*** that all men be saved **2Peter 3:9 NKJV** *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.* **1Timothy 2:3-4 NKJV** ³ *For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,* ⁴ *who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

By our acknowledgement, repentance and acceptance of Jesus Christ brings us into alignment to ***God the Father’s Revealed Will***.

This helps us to know the way that God works and to exercise wisdom in our daily lives. Upon accepting Christ and sealed with the Holy Spirit, we have what it takes to accomplish the Lord desires, if we are ***willing to follow!*** **Philippians 2:13 ESV** *for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.*

VERSE 11 *being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy;*

When we have this connection there is strength without limitations from another realm. Even if we become weary in *well doing*, God sends the power of renewal from on high and we learn the ways of God's provision.

Philippians 4:12-13 NIV *12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

The Lord gives us the ability to endure through His love and overcome problems with circumstances (**patience= fruit**) and people (**longsuffering= fruit**) with **joy=fruit** because He is present.

VERSE 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

We continually give God thanks for executing His plan of our redemption through the blood of Jesus Christ which reconciled us back into an eternal relationship. *For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Cor 5:21ESV)* Never in a million years doing righteous deeds would ever qualify us to be declared saints. Nevertheless, Father God bestows upon His children sainthood because of our identity in Christ. We identify with Christ through baptism, communion, and the abiding presence of Holy Spirit. He gives us a new identity and a new nature, along with a new desire to please Him and become more like Him.

When we practice walking in the Spirit light emits from within us exposing the Truth to those who are seeking to be free.

VERSE 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,

The victory of Jesus Christ's death, burial and resurrection snatched us from the fear of death, hell and the grave. The demonstration of God's perfect love gift in Christ Jesus has demolished once and for all the fear of death. **1 John 5:12 NKJV** *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

We were snatched out of the domination of the Prince of Darkness into the marvelous liberating eternal Light of Jesus Christ! We are no longer under the influence of the power of darkness that lulls you to sleep. We are no longer under the skillful power of darkness concealing the truth. We are no longer under the power of darkness that afflicts and depresses us. We are no longer under the power of darkness given to fascination and allurements. We are no longer under the power of darkness that emboldens us to lie in the face of truth's consequences.

We have been transferred to the kingdom of light and life in Jesus Christ. Hallelujah and glory to God!

VERSE 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

It is only and absolutely through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ that we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins! In the world of the Holy and Righteous... whom people have looked to *from Peter, Paul, Mary, the Pope, Buddha and the Saints* all can forgive sins. None could or can redeem man to his rightful place to live in God's eternal presence. **Acts 4:12 NKJV** *Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

God has set in motion **the plan** to secure our eternal destiny in the birth, death, burial, resurrection and the return of His Son, Jesus Christ for all to receive. No one dies without the choice of where they will spend eternity!

VERSE 15 *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.*

Jesus embodied human flesh; He was fully God and fully man. The Son possesses such likeness to God as fits Him to be the manifestation of God to us. He that has seen the Son has seen the Father **God is invisible, which does not merely mean that He cannot be seen by our bodily eye, but that He is unknowable. In the exalted Christ the unknowable God becomes known.** We behold "with unveiled face the glory of the Lord," and so "are changed into the same image" ([2 Corinthians 3:18](#)), God has "shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ" ([2Cor 4:6](#)), and it is **the unbelieving** on whom "the light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God," does not shine ([2Cor 4:4](#)).

Jesus is the firstborn. He is the *image of the invisible God*. Not as man was made *in the image of God* ([Gen. 1:27](#)), in his natural faculties and dominion over the creatures:

Applications:

The work of Christ in our lives qualifies us to speak on His behalf.

Our effectiveness as witnesses requires strength and wisdom from the Lord.