

The Inheritance of the Saints



COLOSSIANS 1:1-14

The Church of Colosse

Christians who are:

- Faithful
- Loving
- Full of hope
- Grounded in the Word
- Fruit bearing
- Strong

The Church of Colosse

What was their secret?

- Their focus
- Because of the reality of the future, that gave purpose to the present
- Their confidence of what is revealed in God's Word of what awaits us

¹ Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ **by the will of God** and
Timotheus our brother,

² To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are
at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:1-2

Psalm 37:23 *The steps of a good man are
ordered by the Lord*

Prov 3:4-5 *...He shall direct your paths*

Who, what & where we are by God's will

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Colossians 1:1-2

- Peace must follow grace
- Not as the world knows (John 14:27)
- Peace = 'absence of conflict'

God's Peace

- Hebrew: *Shalom*
- Root: *La shalem*
 - Pay
 - Fill
 - Fulfill
- *We have peace, because Jesus paid the price, fulfilled the law, & filled us with His Holy Spirit*

3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

4 Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,

5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

Colossians 1:3-4

- 'For' **Gr. *dia*** lit. *Because of...*
- 'Hope' **Gr. *elpis*** lit. *Expectation, Confidence*
- 'Laid up' **Gr. *Apokeimai*** lit. *Stored away*

⁶ Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:

Colossians 1:6

- Their confident expectation of what is stored away in Heaven, as revealed in the Word, is motivating them to bring forth good fruit (good works)
- Where does the Word tell us of what awaits?

Laid up in Heaven

19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matt 6:19-21

Treasure in Heaven

- Is this symbolic treasure?
- Or something tangible?
- You cannot offer a symbolic reward!

- In eternity we will dwell in the new Jerusalem & new earth – not heaven
- When will we receive our ‘treasure’?

Heavenly Rewards



Heavenly Rewards

- Rewards for the righteous mentioned throughout scripture
- Just symbolic?
- Literal rewards?
- Symbolic present?

Heavenly Rewards

8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

2 John 8

- We can earn a reward
- There are differing levels of reward
- It is a reward for our labour
- It is possible to lose it!

The Fairness of God

18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

1 Peter 3:18

- Note: Christ is just!

The Fairness of God

³ I will proclaim the name of the LORD. Oh, praise the greatness of our God!

⁴ He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.

Deuteronomy 32:3-4

The Fairness of God

¹⁰ For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Hebrews 6:10

- You have not / do not run in vain!

The Fairness of God

¹⁵ Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:58

- Though you may not understand the trials now, nothing you go through for God is wasted or in vain.

The Fairness of God

8 You number my wanderings;
Put my tears into Your bottle;
Are they not in Your book?

Psalm 56:8

The Fairness of God

¹⁶ Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Phil 2:16

- In the 'day of Christ' there will be an assessment of our labour

Our Hope!

- *“What does it matter if we are mistreated in the smoky inns of this miserable life? We are not to stay here, and we will be dearly welcomed by Him to whom we go”.*
- *“Why should I be surprised at the plough that makes such deep furrows in my soul? Whatever direction the wind blows, it will blow us to the Lord. His hand will direct us safely to the heavenly shore to find the weight of eternal glory. As we look back to our pains and suffering, we shall see that suffering is not worthy to be compared to our first night's welcome home in heaven”.*

Samuel Rutherford (1600-1661)

Look to that which Awaits!

- *“I wonder many times that ever a child of God should have a sad heart, considering what their Lord is preparing for them”.*
- *“Go up before hand and see your lodging. Look through all your Father’s rooms in Heaven; in your Father's house are many dwelling-places. Men take a sight of lands before they buy them. I know that Christ has made the bargain already: but be kind to the house you are going, and see it often.”*

Samuel Rutherford (1600-1661)

Neither be thou envious

“Queen Elizabeth I envied the milk maid when she was in prison; but if she had known what a glorious reign she should have had afterwards for 44 years, she would not have envied her. And as little needeth a godly man, though in misery, to envy a wicked man in the ruff of all his prosperity and jollity, considering what he hath in hand, much more what he hath in hope”.

– John Trapp

Heavenly Rewards

¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your **calling and election sure:** for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:10-11

- We cannot add to our salvation – Grace
- Our ‘Calling’?
 - invitation: to a feast
- Election?
 - of the act of God's free will by which before the foundation of the world he decreed his blessings to certain persons

'Called unto Good Works'

¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto **good works**, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

- We are to give diligence to good works
- Thereby we might have an abundant entrance into Heaven
- Good works are the evidence of our Salvation – they don't contribute to it!

'Good Works'

17 Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

James 2:17-18

- Saved by Grace alone, through Faith alone, in Christ alone.
- Doing things for the kingdom is the outward sign of an inward change

'Good Works'

¹⁶ All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Tim 3:16-17

Parable of the Talents

¹⁴ For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

¹⁵ And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

¹⁶ Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

¹⁷ And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

Matthew 25:14-30

Parable of the Talents

18 But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

19 After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

20 And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

Matthew 25:14-30

Parable of the Talents

²¹ His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

²² He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

²³ His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Matthew 25:14-30

Parable of the Talents

24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Matthew 25:14-30

Parable of the Talents

27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:14-30

Parable of the Talents

- To each is given a measure according to ability
- Those who do the most receive the greater reward
- Those who do little receive less
- Those who bear no fruit demonstrate that they have no place in the kingdom

Day of Reckoning

¹¹ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

¹³ Every man's **work** shall be made manifest: for **the day** shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's **work** of what sort it is.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

Day of Reckoning

Two types of material

- Wood, Hay, Stubble
 - All burnt up by fire
 - ‘Sowing to the flesh’ ‘treasure on earth’
- Gold, Silver, Precious Stones
 - All purified through fire
 - ‘Sowing to the Spirit’ ‘treasure in heaven’

Day of Reckoning

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

- We have a choice how we live
- Law of Sowing & Reaping
- We will be rewarded accordingly
- It is not an issue of Salvation

Summary So Far...

- We are called to good works (expected)
- We will be rewarded according to our works
- This has nothing to do with salvation which is entirely by grace

*Our good works are an outward demonstration of the faith we have, and are evidence that we are saved

(Matt 7:20 – by their fruits...)

'The *day* shall declare it'?

Which *day*?

- The Day of Christ

Phil 1:10 / Phil 2:16 / 2 Thes 2:2 / 1 Cor 1:8 /

1 Cor 3:13 / 1 Tim 4:8 / 1 Cor 4:4-5 / Ps 50:4-6

- Not the 'Day of the Lord'

– 'Time of Jacob's trouble' / Daniel's 70th Week

'The *day* shall declare it'?

Where?

Location: Heaven

- Matt 6:20 / 2 Cor 5:10

When?

Prior to the 2nd Coming

- Christ returns with the saints

After the Rapture

- when the saints arrive in glory

Heavenly Award Ceremony

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:10-15

- We will be judged according to our works
- Our Sin was 'paid in full' at Calvary

Judgments

Various judgments in scripture

- **JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST** (Beamer Seat)
- **JUDGMENT OF THE 'GREAT WHORE'** (False Religion)
- **JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS** (Sheep & Goats)
- **JUDGMENT OF SATANIC TRINITY** (Antichrist / Satan)
- **GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT** (Judgment Day)
- *“Judgement to begin with the house of God”*

1 Peter 4:17

Judgment Seat of Christ

¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

¹¹ Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

2 Corinthians 5:10-15

Judgment Seat of Christ

¹² For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart.

¹³ For whether we be beside ourselves, it is to God: or whether we be sober, it is for your cause.

2 Corinthians 5:10-15

Judgment Seat of Christ

¹⁴ For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:
¹⁵ And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.

2 Corinthians 5:10-15

- We will all stand at the Beamer Seat
- We will be rewarded
- What Christ has done is our motivation

Judgment Seat of Christ

2 Cor 5:10 / Rom 14:10

- Award ceremony for the saints
- Sin is not part of the equation
- How we have lived as Christians will be the critical issue
- Our deeds will be judged (good or bad)
- Salvation is assured
- Rewards are not
- Where our treasure has been will be the key



Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



Simply teaching the Bible, simply