

# The Inheritance of the Saints



COLOSSIANS 1:1-14

# The hope laid up for us in Heaven



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

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

<sup>2</sup> 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*

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

- 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*

<sup>6</sup> 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

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

<sup>4</sup> 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

<sup>10</sup> 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

<sup>15</sup> 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

<sup>16</sup> 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

# Heavenly Rewards

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

<sup>11</sup> 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'

<sup>10</sup> 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'

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

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

2 Tim 3:16-17

# Parable of the Talents

<sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> 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.

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

<sup>17</sup> 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

<sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>22</sup> 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.

<sup>23</sup> 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

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

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

<sup>13</sup> 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 70<sup>th</sup> Week

# 'The *day* shall declare it'?

Where?

Location: Heaven

- Matt 6:20 / 2 Cor 5:10

When?

Prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming

- Christ returns with the saints

After the Rapture

- when the saints arrive in glory

# Heavenly Award Ceremony

<sup>10</sup> 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

<sup>10</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> 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

<sup>12</sup> 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.

<sup>13</sup> 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

<sup>14</sup> For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:  
<sup>15</sup> 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

# Heavenly Reward

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

2 John 8

# Heavenly Reward

26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

1 Cor 9:26-27

- Castaway – Gr. *adokimos*
- rejected, reprobate, having nothing

# Our Rewards?

## Crowns:

- The Crown of Incorruption – 1 Cor 9:25
- The Crown of Life – James 1:12
- The Crown of Rejoicing – 1 Thes 2:19-20
- The Crown of Glory – 1 Peter 5:1-4
- The Crown of Righteousness – 2 Tim 4:8

# The Crown of Incorruption

24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.



1 Cor 9:24-25

**Isthmian Games** (Isthmus of Corinth)

# The Crown of Incorruption

24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

1 Cor 9:24-25

# Crowns

- The Crown of Incorruption – 1 Cor 9:25
- The Crown of Life – James 1:12
- The Crown of Rejoicing – 1 Thes 2:19-20
- The Crown of Glory – 1 Peter 5:1-4
- The Crown of Righteousness – 2 Tim 4:8

# The Crown of Life

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

James 1:12

<sup>13</sup> There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 Cor 10:13

# Crowns

- The Crown of Incorruption – 1 Cor 9:25
- The Crown of Life – James 1:12
- The Crown of Rejoicing – 1 Thes 2:19-20
- The Crown of Glory – 1 Peter 5:1-4
- The Crown of Righteousness – 2 Tim 4:8

# The Crown of Rejoicing

<sup>19</sup> For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

<sup>20</sup> For ye are our glory and joy.

1 Thes 2:19-20

- The joy of seeing the lost found
- Luke 15:7 – “joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repents”

# Crowns

- The Crown of Incorruption – 1 Cor 9:25
- The Crown of Life – James 1:12
- The Crown of Rejoicing – 1 Thes 2:19-20
- The Crown of Glory – 1 Peter 5:1-4
- The Crown of Righteousness – 2 Tim 4:8

# The Crown of Glory

- <sup>1</sup> The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:
- <sup>2</sup> Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;
- <sup>3</sup> Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.
- <sup>4</sup> And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

1 Peter 5:1-4

# Crowns

- The Crown of Incorruption – 1 Cor 9:25
- The Crown of Life – James 1:12
- The Crown of Rejoicing – 1 Thes 2:19-20
- The Crown of Glory – 1 Peter 5:1-4
- The Crown of Righteousness – 2 Tim 4:8

# The Crown of Righteousness

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:8

# What do we do with our Crowns?

- Spend eternity bragging about how well we've done?

# Before the throne...

<sup>4</sup> And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

Revelation 4:4

## Elders:

- From every kindred, tongue, peoples & nation
- ‘Redeemed by the blood’
- ‘24’ representative of the whole –  
1 Chron 24:1-18 / Rev 21:12-14 / 24 hours

# Before the throne...

<sup>9</sup> And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

<sup>10</sup> The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

<sup>11</sup> Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Revelation 4:9-11

<sup>12</sup> Both riches and honour come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.

<sup>13</sup> Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.

<sup>14</sup> But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to offer so willingly after this sort? for all things come of thee, and of thine own have we given thee.

**1 Chronicles 29:12-14**

# What do we do with our Crowns?

- Cast them before the throne

# What Happens to the Crowns?

# What Happens to the Crowns?

<sup>11</sup> And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

<sup>12</sup> His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

<sup>13</sup> And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

Revelation 19:11-13

# What Happens to the Crowns?

- We are rewarded with crowns
- We will cast our crowns before the throne
- Jesus will receive and wear the crowns we give Him

# Significance?

- However great our reward, Jesus will receive the glory
- We will not be able to 'brag' throughout eternity
- Once the crowns are cast down we are all the same – sinners saved by grace
- This is our one opportunity to give something back to Jesus
- Today is our opportunity!

# Significance?

- Representative of every time you wanted to quit the race
- Representative of every time you faced temptation
- Representative of every time you had the opportunity to talk to someone about Christ

*"Have you no wish for others to be saved?  
Then you are not saved yourself.  
Be sure of that." C.H.S.*

# Significance?

- Representative of every time you wanted to quit the race
- Representative of every time you faced temptation
- Representative of every time you had the opportunity to talk to someone about Christ
- Representative of your faithfulness in ministry
- Representative of your looking for his return

# Our Response

- The Crown of Incorruption
  - A disciplined Christian life, no compromise
- The Crown of Life
  - Overcoming temptation
- The Crown of Rejoicing
  - Winning souls for Christ
- The Crown of Glory
  - Faithful in ministry
- The Crown of Righteousness
  - Looking for His coming (Sanctified)

7 As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear  
fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of  
Christ;

8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not  
cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be  
filled with **the knowledge of his will** in all wisdom and  
spiritual understanding;

**Colossians 1:7-9**

# God's Will

- Our Sanctification – 1 Thes 4:3
- 'Gathering all in one' – Eph 1:10
- Individual 'setting apart'
- Corporate 'setting apart'
- So that which was begun in Eden – God's walk with man – will be for eternity

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all  
pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and  
increasing in the knowledge of God;

Colossians 1:10

<sup>11</sup> Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

Colossians 1:11

<sup>12</sup> Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Colossians 1:12

- What are we to inherit?
- Have we begun to grasp what awaits us as joint-heirs with Christ?
- 1 Cor 2:9-10 tells us we should have!

**13** Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness,  
and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

**14** In whom we have redemption through his blood, even  
the forgiveness of sins:

**Colossians 1:13-14**

# Keep On Keeping On!

<sup>9</sup> And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

<sup>10</sup> As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:9-10

- “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen”  
(Heb 11:1)



# Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



*Simply teaching the Bible, simply*