

WARM-UP

- Who is the most charismatic person you know? How do you and others feel when you are around this person?
- Who among your friends or peers could you consider a leader? What does he or she do, say, or make you feel?
- Share an internal standard you have for one area of your life (i.e., in relationships, for work, at home). Why do you think you hold to this standard?

WORD *⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God . . .* **COLOSSIANS 1:9-10**

(Read also **COLOSSIANS 1**.)

The church at Colossae was struggling against false teachers who challenged the fact that Jesus is God. Paul wrote the letter to the Colossians to emphasize the Lordship and supremacy of Christ, the God-man, whom the Father has placed over all, including all human philosophies and traditions. When we experience Him being over everything and the benevolence of His rule, we are motivated and empowered to walk in a worthy manner. In this lesson, we will learn how good God the Father, through the Lordship of Jesus Christ, is to us, His people.

1 | God has qualified us to be His heirs.

. . . giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. **COLOSSIANS 1:12**

The word “qualified” in this context means to “make able” or to “make fit” for something. In our sinful, human state, nothing we can do will ever qualify us to share in God’s inheritance. Yet, in spite of our inadequacy and unworthiness, God loved us so much that, through the work of Jesus on the cross and through faith in Him, God made us His children (John 1:12), who are fit to share in the inheritance of His people. We become co-heirs with God’s people and Jesus Himself (Romans 8:17). This is how good Jesus is as Lord. What were the things you used to believe qualify one to be a child and heir of God?

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2 | God has delivered us and transferred us to His kingdom.

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son . . . **COLOSSIANS 1:13**

More than qualifying us to share in His inheritance, God has delivered and rescued us from darkness, which is the kingdom of Satan, where sin reigns and eternal death is our ultimate end. Through the Lord Jesus, we were brought into the kingdom of God, a kingdom of light, love, holiness, and righteousness. In His kingdom, we can look forward to

enjoying His righteous and benevolent rule for all eternity. How do you try to fathom God’s love for us? After you put your faith in Christ for salvation, how do you see the world and people differently? What has been your experience since moving from darkness to light?

3 | God has redeemed and forgiven us.

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

COLOSSIANS 1:14

Along with His inheritance and being delivered from darkness to light, God also granted us redemption, which includes the forgiveness of sins. Our Lord Jesus Christ not only sacrificed His life so that we may receive forgiveness—He paid the price so that we would no longer be enslaved by the power of sin. Although we still sin and fall short in many ways, the Lord Jesus has secured our forgiveness. Because of His grace and power, we are no longer condemned, and we can continue to live set apart for Him. What are the motivations that earthly rulers give to win the affections and allegiance of their people? Compare and contrast these with God’s ways.

APPLICATION

- What are some ways you feel that you are still striving to be qualified? Do you think sometimes that your relationship with God is more about rules? Surrender these to God in prayer today.
- Would you say that your life is all and only about Jesus? Why or why not?
- We are all being sanctified and growing more and more like Christ. How can you respond when faced with difficult situations and decisions with others, knowing that Jesus is Lord of your life?

PRAYER

- Thank God for His kind of rule, that He qualified us, rescued us, and redeemed us, despite our unworthiness.
- Ask God to reveal to you areas in your life that have yet to be set apart for Him. Pray for His grace to overcome these areas.
- Pray that you will have a deeper and transformational understanding of God's great love for you and that it would reflect to the people around you.