

The Iron Men of Fellowship of Champions

Colossians 1:11-14

Noel R. Vincent

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Opening Prayer

Colossians 1:11 (NOTES)

- **Rhetorical Question:** How distasteful to you is your sin? Do you hate it? Do you wish you could be free of it? What would you give, or do, if you could stop sinning? How about diligent, unceasing prayer? Paul gives us the example as we begin today's study:
- Read: Vs. 9-12 *"For this reason also, since the day we heard [vs. 4 ... of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints,] we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be ... 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father."*
- "Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power" - The power of God's Spirit is available to broaden our spiritual foundation so that we can stand firm and not give up in trials or adversity, not give in to temptations and spiritual warfare, and not surrender to, or be led astray by, false teaching. This power is from the Spirit of God, we need merely to call upon His Spirit in prayer.
 - Php 4:13 *"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."*
 - Eph 6:10-13 *"10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against [f]flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm."*
- "joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father" - We can be joyful and thankful in prayer because we know that this is just the kind of prayer God wants to answer in the affirmative. Otherwise, Paul wouldn't have bothered. We can pray for the power of God's Spirit for steadfastness (to stand firm) when in trials, when tempted to sin. We can, we should, pray in that very moment. When we see temptation coming, we pray for the strength to resist, to say no, to stand firm.

Colossians 1:12 (NOTES)

- "the Father who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light" - God, whom the Gnostics claimed was not involved in the lives of people, has made it possible for us to become co-heirs with His Son. Paul is referring directly to the Colossians' conversions (regeneration, then repentance and faith, then righteousness - all these are gifts from God, unearned).
 - Tit 3:5 *"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, Tit 3:6 whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, Tit 3:7 so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life."*
- The Gnostics had it wrong. We do not qualify ourselves by the apprehension of knowledge, or the pursuit of religious experience, or the performance of good deeds. But, rather God qualifies us on the basis of our conversion directly by His Spirit.
 - Ro 8:14-17 *"For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. Ro 8:15 For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" Ro 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, Ro 8:17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with [Him] so that we may also be glorified with [Him]."*
 - Eph 2:8-9 *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, [it is] the gift of God; Eph 2:9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."*
- This "qualification" was an instantaneous act of conversion, not a long process brought about through the acquisition of knowledge or experience.
- **Discussion:** What is this inheritance? Discussed last time together. Eternal Life in the Eternal City - some call Heaven, but the Bible calls New Jerusalem on the New Earth.
 - Re 21:1 *"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer [any] sea. Re 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. Re 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is*

among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, Re 21:4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be [any] death; there will no longer be [any] mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." Re 21:5 And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." Re 21:6 Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. Re 21:7 "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son."

- *Heb 11:8 "By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going. Heb 11:9 By faith he lived as an alien in the land of promise, as in a foreign [land,] dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, fellow heirs of the same promise; Heb 11:10 for he was looking for the city which has foundations, whose architect and builder is God." [Jerusalem]*
- *Col 1:13 "For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son."*
- *1Pe 1:4 "to [obtain] an inheritance [which is] imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you."*
- *Re 3:12 "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he will not go out from it anymore; and I will write on him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the new, which comes down out of heaven from My God, and My new name." [Jerusalem]*

Colossians 1:13 (NOTES)

- "He rescued us" - Like a vehicle crash, and trapped in a burning car, He rescued us from His own wrath in hell. Each of us was born standing in line for hell, so to speak. He swooped in and saved us. Our salvation, anyone's salvation, is a rescue mission performed by God and at great personal cost - His only Son.
- "domain of darkness" - The world, which is the kingdom of the 'god of this world,' who is Satan.
 - *2Co 4:4 "in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."*

- Jo 8:44 *"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."*
- **Discussion:** How does it strike you that we begin life as unbelievers in the family of Satan? Does this create any urgency in your heart for the unsaved/unbelievers in your life? Maybe your own parents, siblings, wife, or even your children, a good friend. What would you risk to save them? Are you willing to risk embarrassment, or ridicule? What about their approval? What about the relationship? What do you think holds us back from trying, sharing Christ, praying for them? Apathy (the opposite of love, apathy is hate ... "he who spares the rod hates his son"- Pr 13:24)? Something else?
- The Gnostics urged worship of "principalities and powers" (aeons, angels).
- **Discussion:** Sometimes, some of us worship movie stars, sports figures, certain Midwest baseball teams, we even worship lovers, sometimes, why can't we worship angels? Or anything else?
 - We are called to worship God alone, not angels or any other created thing.
 - Re 19:10 *"Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he *said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."*
 - Ex 20:4-7 *"4 "You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not worship them nor serve them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, inflicting the punishment of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing favor to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments."*
 - Isa 45:22 *"Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other."*
 - Eph 6:12 *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual [forces] of wickedness in the heavenly [places]."*

- Ro 1:18-25 *“18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their reasonings, and their senseless hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible mankind, of birds, four-footed animals, and crawling creatures. 24 Therefore God gave them up to vile impurity in the lusts of their hearts, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for falsehood, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”*
- Col 2:15 *“When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.”*
- Lu 4:8 *“Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.’”*
- "transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son" - Where now our present status is that of citizens. We are sojourners/aliens in this world, whose god is the evil one, but our citizenship has been transferred to the Kingdom of Christ.
 - Php 3:20 "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;
 - Joh 15:19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you."
 - Joh 17:16 "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world."
 - Joh 18:36 "Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm."
 - Eph 2:19 "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household."

- **Discussion:** What does this mean that we are no longer "strangers and aliens"? Strangers to God no more, members of His family now.

Colossians 1:14 (NOTES)

- "in Whom" - In Jesus.
- **Discussion:**
 - Do we have to forgive everybody who does something against us? What about these people who say they forgive their child's murderer without ever having spoken to the murderer? Is that possible? Is there a prerequisite for forgiveness? If so, what? Repentance. Why is repentance required? True repentance soothes the burning coal of pain we caused in another's heart by our sin.
 - Luke 17:3 *"Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him."*
 - If repentance were not a prerequisite, the text would better have read, *"Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke and forgive him."*
 - What exactly is forgiveness? It is a heart transaction in which one elects to no longer hold someone to account for his sin. Forgiveness is ultimately an act of agape love, keeping no record of wrongs. Agape loves for the benefit of the loved, not the lover. Agape is generous, permissive. Eros loves for the benefit of the lover, it is possessive.
 - 1Co 13:5 *"[Agape love] does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong [suffered]."*
 - "redemption, the forgiveness of sins" - Forgiveness is the prerequisite for redemption. Repentance is the prerequisite for forgiveness.
 - Eph 1:7 *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace."*
 - Eph 1:11 *"also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will."*
 - Eph 1:13 *"In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise."*
 - 1Pe 1:23 *"for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable, but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God."*

- The blood of Christ was both the atonement (covering) of our sins, and the purchase price.
 - Ac 20:28 *"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."*
 - Ro 4:7 *"BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED."*
 - Re 5:9 *"And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood [men] from every tribe and tongue and people and nation."*

Application Discussion

Closing Prayer

Small Groups

- Discuss current Scripture reading assignment.
- Prayer:
 - Anything praiseworthy.
 - Areas of accountability.
 - Other prayer requests.