**Delivered from The Power of Darkness**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Colossians 1:9-14**

**Wednesday Evening**

**August 4, 2021**

**Colossians 1:9-14**

9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

**9 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;**

Saints, Paul had already mentioned that he continued praying for these believers (as he did for all the churches; see for example

**Romans 1:8-9**

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. 9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers…

**Philippians 1:3-6**

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

**Philippians 1:9-11**

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Saints, Paul didn’t know about a church in Colosse until he had heard about it from Epaphras, and Paul rejoiced to be able to pray for another growing church. Paul did not stop at saying that he prayed constantly for the Colossian believers; he went on to explain exactly what he prayed for them.

He asked God that they have complete understanding of God’s will for their lives. He asked that they be made wise with spiritual wisdom. These are not abstract concepts; instead, Paul was referring to the true wisdom and understanding made available by God’s Holy Spirit.

The Colossians needed to be filled with this type of spiritual wisdom and knowledge, leaving no room for any other type of false “knowledge” advocated by Gnostic heretics. Wisdom and understanding refer to discretion and discernment. When believers possess those, they will be able to discern the truth from false teaching.

**10 that you may have a walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;**

Saints, true understanding and wisdom of God’s will is inseparable from living in harmony with it. True knowledge leads to obedience; complete obedience cannot occur without the knowledge of God’s will given by the Holy Spirit.

**Titus 3:14**

“And let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful”

The Colossian believers should live always to honor and please the Lord. By so doing, they will continually do good, kind things for others. Their behavior should match their status as God’s holy people.

They ought to be following God closely—their lives being transformed to Christlikeness. A Christian must be active in order to grow spiritually and to live worthy of the Lord.

**11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.**

Saints, the Colossians’ growth in the knowledge of God and the resultant fruit would help to strengthen them. Paul continued his prayer for the believers, asking God that they be strengthened with his glorious power. One can hardly pray a more wonderful prayer.

To be made strong with God’s power is to be given incredible strength—it was God’s glorious power that created the universe and that brought Jesus back to life. One can hardly imagine more power. In fact, Paul’s words here show the inadequacy of describing God’s power—it is beyond our words or our human minds to comprehend.

Yet that power is available to believers and to the church so they can fulfill their mission in the world. Paul wanted the Colossian believers to be strengthened with God’s power so they would not be pulled away from their faith and their witness to the world.

This power would give them all the patience and endurance they would need. Patience is the ability to stand firm against opposition without giving up; it is often used in describing one’s dealings with difficult people. Endurance is the ability to continue toward a goal regardless of the obstacles; it is often used in relation to difficult circumstances.

Both would be needed by the believers in Colosse, and both come from the empowerment of God’s glorious strength. Paul reminded the Colossians that even when they were surrounded by persecution and false teaching, they had the strength to continue toward the goal of their faith and to stand firm against the opposition.

It is God’s power that helps believers endure and be patient even as they are filled with joy that overflows in always thanking the Father. Why? Because Jesus Christ made it possible for the believers to share the inheritance that belongs to God’s holy people.

Saints, by using the word inheritance, Paul was alluding to the inheritance of the Promised Land, first promised to Abram for his faithfulness to God (Genesis 13:14-17).

**Genesis 13:14-17**

14 And the LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him: "Lift your eyes now and look from the place where you are--northward, southward, eastward, and westward; 15 for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.

16 And I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth; so that if a man could number the dust of the earth, then your descendants also could be numbered. 17 Arise, walk in the land through its length and its width, for I give it to you."

Saints, God’s people, the Old Testament saints, inherited a portion of a bountiful land. God’s people in the New Testament are the very sons of God, and as such they have the right to inherit Christ and a glorious eternity in the light. The promise of land is broadened to include the whole creation (Romans 4:14; 8:17-25).

**Romans 8:17-25**

17 and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. 18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

24 For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? 25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.

Saints, Paul was most likely setting up the contrast between the state of “light” that the believers have been transferred to from their previous state of “darkness” as described in 1:13.

**13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,**

Saints, this verse continues the thought from 1:12; Paul still had in mind the analogy of Israel inheriting the Promised Land. The book of Exodus tells the story of how God rescued (or delivered) his people from Egypt (typifying Satan’s kingdom of darkness) and took them to the Promised Land (typifying the Kingdom of his dear Son). (See Exodus 6:6; 12:27; 14:30.)

**Exodus 6:6**

Therefore say to the children of Israel: 'I am the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments.

**Exodus 12:27**

"that you shall say, 'It is the Passover sacrifice of the LORD, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt when He struck the Egyptians and delivered our households.' " So the people bowed their heads and worshiped.

**Exodus 14:30**

So the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore.

Saints, Jesus referred to the kingdom of darkness at his arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:53), describing the forces of evil that he had to combat in his final hours.

**Luke 22:53**

“When I was with you daily in the temple, you did not try to seize Me. But this is your hour, and the power of darkness."

Saints, in Scripture, “darkness” is a metaphor for evil; it is the dominion of those who are without God. True believers, however, have been transferred from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from guilt to forgiveness, and from the power of Satan to the power of God. We have been rescued from a rebel kingdom to serve the true King

**14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.**

Saints, believers are able to be in Christ’s Kingdom because through Jesus Christ, God has purchased our freedom with his blood and has forgiven all our sins. That is the way God chose to buy sinful people back—he offered his Son in exchange for us.

**Colossians 2:13**

“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses”

**Romans 3:24-25**

24 being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed…

Paul was reminding the Colossian believers that they were not saved by knowledge or by good works or by inclusion in some sort of secret religious cult; they were saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. Through him alone had they received the forgiveness of sins.

If we want to be freed from the deadly consequences of our sins, a tremendous price must be paid. But we don’t have to pay it. Jesus Christ, our substitute, has already redeemed us by his death on the cross. Our part is to trust him and accept his gift of eternal life. Our sins have been paid for, and the way has been cleared for us to begin a relationship with God.

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.” In Jesus Name!**