

Colossians 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. The final participle *eucharistountes* (εὐχαριστοῦντες, "giving thanks") climaxes Paul's description of mature Christian living. Gratitude isn't occasional sentiment but continuous practice, recognizing God as source of every blessing. Thanksgiving to "the Father" emphasizes familial relationship—believers address God as children, not slaves or subjects.

"Hath made us meet" translates *hikanōsanti* (ἴκανώσαντι, "qualified"), aorist tense indicating completed action. God already qualified believers for heavenly inheritance; this isn't future possibility but accomplished fact. No human merit, mystical experience, or ascetic practice can add to God's complete qualification. "Partakers" (*merida*, μερίδα, "share/portion") indicates guaranteed participation, not mere potential.

Historical Context

Jewish inheritance laws protected land within tribes through divine allocation (Numbers 26:52-56). Paul applies this imagery spiritually: believers receive heavenly inheritance "in light," contrasting the kingdom of darkness (v. 13). Gnostics claimed secret knowledge enabled progression from darkness to light through stages of enlightenment. Paul declares believers already transferred into light through Christ, requiring no additional qualification.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does knowing God already qualified you for heavenly inheritance affect your pursuit of spiritual growth?
2. What role does thanksgiving play in your spiritual life—central practice or occasional addition?
3. Do you live with confidence in your secured inheritance, or constantly strive to qualify yourself?

Interlinear Text

εὐχαριστοῦντες τῷ πατρὶ τῷ ἵκανώσαντι ἡμᾶς

Giving thanks **which** **unto the Father** **which** **hath made** **us**
G2168 G3588 G3962 G3588 G2427 G2248

εἰς τῷ μερίδα τῷ κλήρου τῷ ἀγίων ἐν
to which be partakers which of the inheritance which of the saints in
G1519 G3588 G3310 G3588 G2819 G3588 G40 G1722

τῷ φωτὶ·
which **light**
G3588 G5457

Additional Cross-References

Acts 20:32 (Holy): And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

Ephesians 1:11 (Parallel theme): In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

Acts 26:18 (Holy): To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Ephesians 1:18 (Holy): The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Ephesians 3:6 (Parallel theme): That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

2 Corinthians 5:5 (Parallel theme): Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

Hebrews 3:14 (Creation): For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

Romans 8:17 (Parallel theme): And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

John 14:6 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Revelation 21:23 (Light): And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.