

How do I Become Qualified for an Inheritance from God?

Col. 1:12 “giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.” NKJV

The context of Colossians Chapter 1

- Read Col 1:1-14
- City of Colosse was a small town about 100 miles east of Ephesus in Asia Minor. It was a pagan city, with a strong intermingling of Jews.
- Paul's letter was written to the "saints and faithful brethren in Christ" in Colosse whom Paul had "heard of" and likely never saw in person.
- Epaphras brought mostly favorable news to Paul of the Colossians.
- Paul expressed his continual prayer for the faithful Colossian brethren. (vs 9-14)

Paul's prayer for the faithful Colossian brethren...

That they may...

- **“be filled with the knowledge of His will** in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (vs. 9)
 - To possess a knowledge of God's will with wisdom and spiritual understanding requires reading the word (Eph 3:3-5)
- **“walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him,** being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God” (vs. 10)

It is conduct coming from someone who is first **FILLED** with the knowledge of God's will that can **FULLY** please Him!

Paul's prayer for the faithful Colossian brethren...

Giving thanks to the Father who has:

- **"qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light" (vs. 12)**
 - "reserved in heaven for you" (1 Pet 1:3-5)
- **"delivered us from the power of darkness"(vs. 13)**
- **"translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love."**

In Whom we have:

- **"redemption through His blood" (vs. 14)**
- **"the forgiveness of sins" (vs. 14)**

How did God qualify these “saints and faithful brethren who are in Colosse” for an inheritance?

- Clearly from the context of Colossians chapter 1, they did it in a way that was:
 - **Fully pleasing to God** (vs. 10)
 - **Based on a complete knowledge of God’s will** (vs. 9-10)
- “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Heb 11:6)
- “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Rom 10:17)

Who are qualified to receive an inheritance from God?

- Those who are:
 - **Called and receive the redemption of transgressions through the blood of Christ** – Heb 9:14-15 (i.e. the saved)
 - **Sanctified by faith** – Acts 26:18 (i.e. His church – 1 Cor 1:2)
 - **In Him having redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace** – Eph 1:7-12
 - **Children of God and heirs** – Rom 8:16-17 (i.e. Sons of God who have put on Christ in baptism – Gal 3:26-27)
 - **Begotten again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead – 1 Pet 1:3-5 (i.e. the saved)

How does one receive forgiveness of sins (salvation), qualifying for the eternal inheritance?

Through the **blood of Christ** (Eph 1:7, Col 1:14, 1 Jn 1:7, Rev 1:5)

- **Belief** (Mark 16:16, Rom 10:9-10)
- **Confession of Christ** (Rom 10:10, Acts 8:37)
- **Repentance** (Acts 2:38, 3:19)
- **Baptism** (Acts 2:38, 22:16)

These are steps necessary to put on Christ (Gal 3:26-27) qualifying as sons of God for God's eternal inheritance.

How may one qualify for a physical inheritance today?

- A person (the testator) creates a will to predetermine how their estate will be settled (final bills, debts and taxes owed) and how any remaining possessions that they have earned and collected will be distributed after death.
- The will outlines who (typically family members, persons and possibly charitable organizations chosen by the testator) will receive what remaining possessions (inheritance).
- The will may also outline certain requirements or qualifications to be met before someone receives their portion of the inheritance (age minimum, employment, net worth, etc.)

It's instructive to scripturally understand God's specified will for forgiveness of sins as qualifications to receive God's eternal inheritance:

- **The testator chooses prior to death the qualification of those to receive the inheritance that they are leaving.**
 - God chose the requirements of those who could qualify to receive His eternal inheritance before the earth was formed (Eph 1:3-6, 11-12)
 - The predestined choice of God was generic as to qualifications and not specific to individuals (Eph 1:11-12)

It's instructive to scripturally understand God's specified will for forgiveness of sins as qualifications to receive God's eternal inheritance:

- **It's the testator's choice as to what is required and who will qualify to receive an inheritance.**
 - We do not choose who or what pleases God (Col 1:10)
 - We have no say in what is "right" and "good" and who will go to heaven (Prov 14:12)
 - Even if we are once qualified by God, we may become "disqualified" from receiving an eternal inheritance (1 Cor 9:27, 2 Cor 13:5)

It's instructive to scripturally understand God's specified will for forgiveness from sins as qualifications to receive God's eternal inheritance:

- **The testator worked and earned the inheritance to be provided to those who receive it. The receivers qualified to receive it but did not earn it.**
 - We may qualify to receive an eternal inheritance, but God and Jesus did the work to create the inheritance and make it available. (Col 2:11-12)
 - We have no ability to work and earn forgiveness for our sins without the gift of Jesus' death on the cross. (Rom 3:23-26, Eph 1:7-10)