

“Thanks & Prayer”
Colossians 1:1-14
10/8/23
Message 1

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Thanks & Prayer”
- **Illustration: Leonardo Da Vinci’s famous painting of The Last Supper**
 - In this painting - Our Lord’s hands are empty
 - **Show Pic**
 - But an interesting Story is told
 - Now Da Vinci dedicated 3 years to this painting
 - He determined that it would be his crowning work.
 - Before the unveiling
 - He decided to show it to a friend for whose opinion he had the utmost respect.
 - The friend’s praise was of the charts
 - *“The cup in Jesus’ hand,” he said, “is especially beautiful.”*
 - Da Vinci was Disappointed and at once began to Remove the cup
 - The friend asked why?!
 - “Nothing,” Da Vinci explained,
 - “Must distract from the figure of Christ.”

- Da Vinci focused attention solely on Christ by removing the distraction of the cup.

• **Paul Purpose In Colossians**

○ **1st This is Paul's purpose in this letter to the church of Colosse.**

- NOTHING must distract from CHRIST

- Paul's Letter to the Colossians is all about the

○ **Supremacy & Sufficiency of Christ**

○ **2nd Frighten Church**

- All kinds of BAD Philosophies

- The Church was pulled in a lot of directions
- In what we would call the New Age
- They were being affected by what is known as the Gnosticism

- SO - Paul's Purpose

- Was to make sure they were grounded in TRUTH

- Supremacy & Sufficiency of Christ

• **Context / Backdrop to the Book of Colossians**

○ **1st The Author**

- Paul had made several mission trips

- He had started many churches

- Paul was arrested in Jerusalem

- He was arrested in the Temple for stirring up trouble in the Jewish world.
- He ended up in the hands of the Romans
- Eventually wound up sitting in Rome waiting for a trial before Caesar.

▪ **BUT - During this time of imprisonment in Rome**

- Paul wrote letters, called his “Prison Epistles”
 - Ephesians
 - Philippians
 - Colossians
 - Philemon
- The year is around 60AD
 - The church in Colosse is about 5 years old.

○ **2nd The City**

▪ **Location**

- The city of Colosse was located in the area known in the Bible as
 - Asia Minor
 - Another name for the region was “Phrygia” (fri-jee-uh)
 - Today the country of Turkey covers this area

○ **Show Map**

- Also Note
 - Colosse was located in the southern part of the Lycus valley.
 - There were three main cities in the valley:
 - Hier-ap-olis,
 - Laodicea
 - Colosse
 - Hierapolis - Hot mineral water
 - Colossae – Cold Fresh Water
 - Laodicea – Warm useless water by the time it arrived
- Brief History
 - In the 6th century BC - The city was flourishing.
 - The ancient Greek historian Herodotus records that when the Persian king Xerxes came to Colosse, it was a large city.
 - The city was originally an important trade center
 - Being located on the main highway that connected the city of Ephesus to the lands in the east (like Persia)
 - The Lycus valley produced olives and figs.
 - The city was also known for its wool.
 - Both Laodicea and Colosse had developed a beautiful purple-dyed wool.

- The name “Colosse” comes from the Latin collossinus
 - Meaning “Purple Wool”.
- When the Romans came along
 - They built new roads that ended up causing the economy of Colosse to shrink
 - By Paul’s day it was a small city.
- Earthquake - History (Tacitus – Annales 14.27)
 - Tells us that in the year 60AD there was a huge earthquake in the region, leveling many cities.
 - It is thought that Paul wrote his letter at this time
 - Before news of the earthquake reached Rome.
 - The cities were rebuilt.
- The End of the City
 - The city was weakened under Islamic rule and was eventually destroyed in the 12th century.
 - All that’s left of Colosse today is a “tel”
 - An unexcavated mound of dirt that covers the ruins of the ancient city.
- **Show Pics**
- **3rd The Church**
 - **Paul did not Personally Start the church**
 - And at the time of his writing

- He had never personally been to Colosse (Col. 2:1)

Colossians 2:1 (NKJV)

1 For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh,

▪ **How was the Church Established?**

- Many Believe
 - While Paul was in Ephesus for 3 years many came and heard the Gospel

Acts 19:10 (NKJV)

10 And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

- A man from Colosse named Epaphras was the first to preach the gospel in Colosse

Colossians 1:7 (NKJV)

7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,

Colossians 4:12 (NKJV)

12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

- It is likely that Epaphras came to Christ in Ephesus under Paul's ministry.
- Another person from Colosse was named **Onesimus**

Colossians 4:9 (NKJV)

*9 with **Onesimus**, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They will make known to you all things which are happening here.*

- We know from Paul's letter to Philemon

- That Onesimus was a runaway slave who used to belong to Philemon
- Paul led Onesimus to Christ while in prison in Rome and sent him back to Colosse with this letter, and to make things right with Philemon.
- Philemon and his wife Apphia hosted the church in their home (Phile. 1:2).
- Their son Archippus seems to have been the pastor of the church (Phile. 1:2)
- History is silent on what happens to the church after Paul's time.

○ **4th The Letter**

▪ **Context Behind The Letter – False Teaching**

- No Doubt - Epaphras Makes his way to Paul
 - He Informs Paul of the struggles
 - Paul Writes this letter
- The Problem
 - Many gods
 - Being on a trade route, the city had a population of all kinds of people.
 - Roman coins from Colosse indicate the worship of numerous deities
 - Artemis
 - He-li-os

- Demeter
- Isis
- Ser-apis
- The Phrygian mystery religions like the worship of Cybele
- The Roman emperor worship
- As well as Judaism & Christianity

○ Gnosticism

- One of the heresies that was on the way to springing up would be known as Gnosticism
 - Some have suggested that Gnosticism may have gotten its start at Colosse.
- Gnosticism –
 - The word comes from the Greek gnosis, meaning “to know” (an a-gnostic is someone who doesn’t know)
 - Gnostics were people “in the know”
 - They had Special Knowledge that only a few were privileged to have
 - They considered themselves the spiritual “know-it-alls” of the church.
 - They taught that to reach the height of spiritual maturity you needed to “know” their secrets and special rituals.
 - *Wiersbe; To begin with, this heresy promised people such a close union with God that they would achieve a “spiritual perfection.” Spiritual fullness could be theirs only if they entered into*

the teachings and ceremonies prescribed.

- We'll get to the specifics when we get into chapter 2
- Jewish legalism
 - You needed to be circumcised,
 - You needed to follow the Jewish dietary laws
 - You needed to observe all the Jewish feasts
 - All to be a Christian.
- **All This is KNOWN as - The Colossian Heresy**
 - All this make up what is known as the - The Colossian Heresy
 - It was the combination of several religious systems.
 - The teaching included elements of Jewish legalism (Col. 2:16-17),
 - Oriental mysticism (Col. 2:18-19)
 - Greek asceticism (Col. 2:20-23).
 - And even a little bit of Christianity to make it all right.
 - These false teachers didn't outright deny the Christian faith,
 - They only claimed to make it better.

• **A Suggested Outline of Colossians:**

- **Chapter 1**

- Greeting / Gospel Message vs. 1-14
- Jesus is Preeminent vs. 15-29
 - Before you get anything
 - You need to know who Jesus is and what He's done.
- **Chapter 2**
 - Dealing with heresy Gnosticism
 - Although not in it full form that it would take in the next century
 - It was none the less a early form of Gnosticism
 - Paul will deal head on with the errors of his day (and our day as well)
- **Chapters 3-4**
 - Practical living
 - Right doctrine leads to right living.

• **Now this morning we will look at 3 Wonderful Truths in Paul Greeting to the Colossians**

- Paul's Purpose vs. 1-2
- Paul's Thanks & Prayers vs. 3-11
- Paul's Praise To God vs. 12-14

Paul's Purpose vs. 1-2

• **First: Paul's Greeting v. 1**

- **1st Paul v. 1a**

Colossians 1:1 (NKJV)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

▪ **1st Who is Paul?**

- Paul was born Saul! (Saul means "asked")
 - Most likely he was named after King Saul!
- They were both from the tribe of Benjamin
 - The tribe of Ben was described as a ravenous wolf!
- Saul fit that description, until he became Paul!!!
 - He was responsible for killing many Christians
 - While on his way to kill more Christians, "on the road to Damascus"!!!
 - Jesus came to him and appeared to him and asked him why are you persecuting Me? And was there converted!
 - His name was changed to Paul, (means little) he was sent by the Spirit to be an apostle to the gentiles. (Acts 9:15)
- Paul was later sent out by God on 4 missionary journeys

▪ **Paul is the Author**

- He wrote the letter while in Roman custody around AD 60
 - (Colossians 4:3, 4:10, and 4:18)

○ **2nd An apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God v. 1b**

Colossians 1:1 (NKJV)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

▪ **1st What is an Apostle?**

- The word "apostle" refers to "an official emissary sent to deliver a strategic message."
- Much like a member of the State Department sits down with someone from a foreign regime, and relays a Presidential message, they're functioning like an apostle.

▪ **2nd Now are there Apostles today? NO**

- We are all disciples but I believe that the title of an apostle was only for these men at this time!
- McGee, gives requirements for apostleship!
 - The apostle receives their commission directly from the living lips of Jesus.
 - The apostle saw the Savior after His resurrection.
 - The apostles exercised a special inspiration.
 - They expounded and wrote Scripture (John 14:26, 16:13 / Gal. 1:11-12)
 - They exercised supreme authority. (John 20:22-23 / 2 Cor. 10:8)
 - They were given a universal commission to find churches (2 Cor. 11:28)

▪ **3rd By the will of God**

- Paul was "an apostle... by the WILL of God..."
 - You don't run for election to become an apostle...

- You don't earn the position by climbing the ladder...
- The only way to be an apostle is if God wills it!
- Lesson: What are you by the WILL of God
 - God has called each of us to do and be something by the will of God!!!
 - You are His ambassador on this planet!!!
- **3rd Timothy our brother v. 1c**

Colossians 1:1 (NKJV)

1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

- Timothy
 - Paul's Son in the faith
 - Grandmother Lois
 - Mother Eunice
 - Father was Greek
 - Ministered with Paul

- **4th To the saints and faithful brethren v. 2a**

Colossians 1:2 (NKJV)

2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Greek is hagios (hag'-ee-os)
- Holy – Set Apart
- If you are IN CHRIST – You are a Saint

- McGee, “There are only two kinds of people today; the saints and the ain’ts. If you are a saint, than you are not an ain’t. If you ain’t an ain’t then you are a saint.

- **5th Who are in Colosse v. 2b**

Colossians 1:2 (NKJV)

*2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ **who are in Colosse**: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

- In Colosse

- Briefly – A few more Things to know
 - The city of Colosse is not even mentioned in the Book of Acts.
 - All our Biblical information about the church there comes from this letter and a few allusions in the letter to Philemon.
 - The city of Colosse was probably the smallest and least important city that Paul ever wrote to.

- **6th Grace to you and peace v. 2c**

Colossians 1:2 (NKJV)

*2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: **Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.***

- Grace & Peace

- Was familiar but heartfelt greeting from Paul
- Always Grace & Peace
 - You know you can’t have PEACE without knowing the GRACE of God!!!!
- Peace WITH God

- Salvation
- Peace OF God
 - His Presence
- Lesson - Be at Peace today
 - If you have received His GRACE
 - Please LIVE in the PEACE of GOD
 - Remember – Your past is just that PAST

Paul's Thanks & Prayers vs. 3-11

• First: Thankfulness vs. 3-8

- 1st Thanks & Prayers v. 3

Colossians 1:3 (NKJV)

3 *We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,*

▪ We GIVE THANKS & PRAYER to GOD

- Address to Who?
 - God & Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ
 - Never forget this
 - Prayer is the unspeakable privilege of having audience with the Sovereign God of the universe

▪ Paul's Heart

- Thankful
 - To God

- For others
- Prays
 - Though he had never met most of them
 - The Christians of Colosse were on Paul's prayer list.
 - He prayed for them!
- **2nd WHY Paul was Thankful vs. 4-8**
 - **1st Since we heard of your Faith – Love for the Saints v. 4**

Colossians 1:4 (NKJV)

4 since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints;

- **Faith – IN CHRIST**

- A Lot of People have FAITH
 - Maybe you have heard this – “All you Need is FAITH”
 - Well FAITH IN WHAT?
 - People will have FAITH in
 - Other People
 - Banks
 - Money
 - Possessions
 - BUT ALL these can and will disappoint
 - Faith in itself is not sufficient
- Genuine FAITH is IN CHRIST

- Faith must be centered in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Since He can never fail, no one who trusts Him will ever be disappointed
- Jesus will always have a true love for God's people as a companion.

- **Your LOVE for the Saints**

- Genuine FAITH is IN CHRIST

- Will always have a true love for God's people!

- Lesson

- All those who are IN CHRIST are Forever Family
 - We MUST have GREAT Love for His CHURCH
 - We need to stop tearing each other apart
 - We are talking a real love for His people
 - I would it GREAT –
 - IF Calvary CP was KNOW for it's FAITH IN CHRIST and LOVE for the SAINTS

- **2nd Because of the Hope v. 5**

Colossians 1:5 (NKJV)

5 because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

- **Hope in Heaven / God –**

- IS Not I "Hope" it will be

- IT is HOPE and I KNOW it to be
- In Christ – You can count on the HOP of HEAVEN
- We take are last breath here – IT will be your first breath in heaven

- **Paul was thankful that their Eternal Destiny**

- Was affected by the truth of the gospel
- Brought by Epaphras (as you also learned from Epaphras)
- The Gospel Changes lives
- The Most Important task we can undertake is to share His Gospel to this lost world

- **4th And is bringing forth fruit v. 6**

Colossians 1:6 (NKJV)

6 which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth;

- **Has come to you – From a man**

- The church in Colosse came about because a man named Epaphras came and told them about Jesus Christ.
- Jesus gave us one thing to do before He left

Matthew 28:19–20 (NKJV)

19 *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*
20 *teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.*

- Jesus has a message for the world
 - Separated from God by sin
 - He has made the way back to God.
 - He has paid for their sins by dying on cross.
 - All they need to do is to receive this gift of forgiveness and eternal life by faith.
 - This is the simple truth of the gospel.

- **Bringing Forth Fruit – The Gospel**

- The gospel produces a result.
- People find faith in Christ and are saved
- Lives are changed.
- It's a powerful message – the power is in the message

Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

- Our responsibility is not to save people,
- Our responsibility is to share the message.
- The rest is up to God and the people you share with.

- **5th Discipleship**

Colossians 1:7–8 (NKJV)

7 as you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf,
8 who also declared to us your love in the Spirit.

- **1st Fellow**

- Paul uses a word that talks about relationship.
- Epaphras wasn't a "lone ranger".
- He was connected to people.
- He was connected to Paul and to the Colossians.

- **2nd Servant**

- Being a servant requires humility.
 - It requires being more concerned for others than you are for yourself!
 - Being a servant requires getting up and doing things for other people.
 - It's an action oriented word.
 - Jesus said that being a servant was the most important thing that we could learn to do

Mark 10:42–45 (NKJV)

42 *But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.*

43 *Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.*

44 *And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all.*

45 *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*

- The man God uses is a servant.

- **3rd Faithful**

- The word speaks of faith – Epaphras was a man of faith.
- The word speaks of being faithful.
- You can count on him

1 Corinthians 4:2 (NKJV)

2 Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

- Review - Who is the person God uses?
 - A Fellow = Connected to the true Church
 - A Servant
 - One who is faithful.

• **Second: Intercession vs. 9-11**

- **Context: How Paul prayed for the Colossian Christians**
 - 1st To be filled with the knowledge of God's will v. 9
 - 2nd To walk worthy of the Lord v. 10
 - 3rd To be fruitful in every good work v. 10
 - 4th To be increasing in their knowledge of God v. 10
 - 5th To be strengthened for endurance and patience v. 11
- **1st To ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will:**

Colossians 1:9 (NKJV)

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;

- **Prayed for You - Do not cease to pray for you**
 - We need to have this heart to pray for other believers
- **Be Filled –**

- Greek: Pleroo
- Meaning: To fill to the full
- Paul doesn't want the Colossians to just have a taste of God's will
 - He wants them to be filled with it.
- **With the Knowledge**
 - Greek: Epignosis
 - Means: Precise and correct knowledge; more thorough knowledge; knowledge based on experience
 - Knowledge Of His WILL
- **Will –**
 - Greek: Thelema
 - Means: Will, choice, inclination, desire, pleasure
- **What is God's will?**
 - Some Mystical thing we have to search for? NO
 - His Will – His WORD
 - He has already told what His will is

1 Timothy 2:3–4 (NKJV)

***3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior,
4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.***

- **All Wisdom –**
 - Greek: Sophia

- Means: Wisdom is not just knowing facts, but knowing what to do with those facts.
- It's not the person who can win at a quiz show; it's a person who does the right things in life.
- Wisdom – Comes from God – Knowing HOW to apply the Knowledge we have

▪ **Spiritual Understanding –**

- Greek: Pneumatikos –
- Means: Relating to the human spirit or the Holy Spirit
- understanding – sunesis – a running together, critical understanding
- The ability to accumulate and organize principles from Scripture
- And “understanding” the application of those principles to daily living

- **2nd That you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him v. 10a**

Colossians 1:10 (NKJV)

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

- Walk
 - Greek: Peripateo
 - Means: (“around” + “to tread”) – to live your life
- Worthy –
 - Greek: Axios

- Means: Suitably, in a manner worthy of / Scales
- Pleasing –
 - Greek: Areskeia
 - Means: desire to please; literally, “unto all pleasing”
- **What does it mean to walk worthy?**
 - Walk NOT to EARN His love / salvation
 - BUT to WALK worthy in what He has already DONE
 - What has God done for us?
 - NOW live accordingly
 - **Death to Self (Roman 12)**

Romans 12:1–2 (NKJV)

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

1 Corinthians 6:20 (NKJV)

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

- **Stop Sinning**

1 Thessalonians 4:1–8 (NKJV)

1 Finally then, brethren, we urge and exhort in the Lord Jesus that you should abound more and more, just as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God;

2 for you know what commandments we gave you through the Lord Jesus.

- 3** *For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;*
- 4** *that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,*
- 5** *not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God;*
- 6** *that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified.*
- 7** *For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.*
- 8** *Therefore he who rejects this does not reject man, but God, who has also given us His Holy Spirit.*

- **Unity**
 - **(Ephesians 4)**
- **Use Your Gifts**
 - **(Ephesians 4)**
- **Let Me SUM it up**
 - God wants your life surrendered to HIM – ALL OF IT
 - **3rd Being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God v. 10b**

Colossians 1:10 (NKJV)

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

- 2 More Ways from the text
 - 1st Do good works, to be fruitful in their good works.
 - DO Good Works
 - To be Fruitful
 - 2nd Increasing In The Knowledge Of God

- Increasing – auxano – to cause to grow, become greater; “continually increasing”
- The knowledge – epignosis – precise and correct knowledge; a fuller, clearer, more thorough knowledge; knowledge based on experience
- Back in verse 9, the issue was the knowledge of God’s will.
- Here the issue is the knowledge of God
- MORE than just Information
- More than knowledge – Receive Knowledge of Him
 - Remember even Satan believes and Knowledge
- **4th Strengthened with all might v. 11**

Colossians 1:11 (NKJV)

11 strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

- His strength is there to help us meet all of life’s challenges
- To endure and overcome problems with circumstances (patience) and people (longsuffering) with joy
- Lesson
 - Do you know this strength and His Glorious Power
 - Illustration
 - Many Critics in a Christians life
 - Many critics in a pastors life

- Holding fast to God there is Strength and Power

Paul's Praise To God vs. 12-14

• **First: Giving Thanks to the Father v. 12a**

Colossians 1:12 (NKJV)

12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

- **The Father is mentioned in connection with Salvation**
 - It is the Father who qualifies us, not our own works.

• **Second: To be partakers of the inheritance of the saints vs, 12b**

Colossians 1:12 (NKJV)

12 giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

- **We gain this as an inheritance**
 - Christ - Instead of earning it as a wage
 - Heaven

• **Third: He has delivered us from the power of darkness vs. 13a**

Colossians 1:13 (NKJV)

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

- **1st The power of darkness**
 - The power of darkness lulls us to sleep.
 - The power of darkness is skilled at concealment.
 - The power of darkness afflicts and depresses man.

- The power of darkness can fascinate us.
- The power of darkness emboldens some men.
- **2nd He HAS Delivered US**
 - Christians have been delivered from Satan's domain.
 - The word has the idea of a rescue by a sovereign power.

• **Fourth: And conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love vs. 13b**

Colossians 1:13 (NKJV)

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

- Conveyed
 - Carried – Delivered
 - In The Greek
 - It means “to draw to oneself” or “to rescue,”
 - Refers to the believer's spiritual liberation by God from Satan's kingdom

• **Fifth: In whom we have redemption through His blood v. 14**

Colossians 1:14 (NKJV)

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

- Redemption has the idea of release by a legal ransom.
 - The price for our release was paid by the blood of Jesus.
- You HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN

Closing

- Let Us hold onto these wonderful promises from God

Communion

- First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)
- Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28
- Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26
- Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

24 *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”*

25 *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.*