



Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father. We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and growing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth, just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Colossians 1:1-14, ESV

SAINTS IN THE LIGHT

December 4, 2011

Rev. Tom Hamilton

What promises are offered to us as saints in the light? What does it mean to be “partakers of,” as the King James Version has it, or “share in the inheritance of “saints in the light,” as our Revised Standard Version puts it?

When the great Russian author Leo Tolstoy was fifty years old, he tells us that life suddenly paled on him. He went stale and for two whole years he felt drab and despondent. He saw no reason for living, and he very much wanted to end it all. He was actually afraid to sleep in a room where there was rope, for fear that he would get up during the night and hang himself. But one day, he was walking through the woods, arguing with himself about the meaning of life and the existence of God. Suddenly, light burst upon him. He noticed that every time he really thought about God, every time he said out loud, “Our Father in Heaven,” there came a leap of fresh vitality within him. For the moment, life had meaning again.

“Why need I look further?” he asked. “He is here—surely the Lord is in this place. He is near—in him we live and move and have our being. His will is our peace, and he is the final source of all those energies which make life real.”

From that hour, Tolstoy walked again in the light. Life never went stale again. He had become reinvigorated, revitalized.

That’s what Paul is saying can happen to us if we really claim our inheritance as saints in the light. But, again, precisely what does that mean? The answer, I think, is in what Paul is praying for. He makes two big petitions: one, discernment in perceiving God’s will; and two, power in performing God’s will.

**Today’s Reflection from:**  
Irresistible Invitation © 2008 Abingdon Press  
Written by: Maxie D. Dunnam