

Understanding the Consequences of the Divine Rescue

“Colossians: Together for Christ”

Colossians 1:13-14

April 29, 2018

BIG IDEA

You may never have been pulled from a burning building or pulled from a raging river, but if you are a follower of Jesus, you have been rescued. Even more to the point: If you don't follow Jesus, you need to be rescued. If you don't get into his lifeboat, you will die. You need to be rescued by Jesus. If you have, you can live differently in light of that rescue. That all comes into view when we appreciate the consequences of the divine rescue.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Context:

The divine rescue is chronicled by the Apostle Paul in Colossians 1:13-14. He loves the church in Colossae. He is thankful that God is working amongst believers there. In this passage we will see that Paul is grateful for their spiritual rescue, relocation, and redemption. And we can be rescued, too, by faith in the incredible work of Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:13-14

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

MAIN IDEAS

The Apostle Paul was concerned about false teaching that threatened his readers. So he prayed a petition over them that they would gain a deep understanding of God and find the fruit of walking in a manner that is worthy of him. He wanted the Colossians to know Christ and was thankful that God had rescued them from sin and transferred them into the Kingdom of his Son.

1. Paul Was Full of Gratitude

Colossians 1:12 – ... giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Looking back at verse 12, which sets up the following two verses, we see that Paul was thankful for the inheritance that awaited his readers. “The saints in light” are those who have been separated from the world and set apart to God. The inheritance belongs to that group alone, and the inheritance is magnificent! It will be consummated when we will rule with Christ over his vast kingdom. Paul was thankful for their future. But he was also thankful for what God was doing for them in this world.

a. When you think of the Kingdom of God, what comes to your mind? Is it only future? Can you find scripture that would help you identify the future and temporal aspects of his kingdom?

b. How does the truth regarding God’s activity within your every-day life affect the way you live?

2. Believers Have Been Rescued From Crushing Darkness

Colossians 1:13a – He has delivered us from the domain of darkness...

The words that Paul chose here shed great light on the importance of the divine rescue. He contrasted darkness and light. The saints of light have been rescued from the domain of darkness. The “domain of darkness” is a fearsome place. Those locked in its clutches are destined for destruction. Their only hope is rescue.



4. Believers Are Redeemed by Christ

Colossians 1:14 – ...in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Redemption results in the forgiveness of sins. The Greek word for *forgiveness* refers to a pardon, like a death-row inmate receiving a last-minute reprieve from a governor. It is a composite of two Greek words: *apo* (“from”) and *hiēmi* (“to send.”) The outworking of Christ’s work of redemption on the cross is that God has sent away our sins; and they are forever lost in his grace, never to be found, and never to be used against us.

a. Do you walk in shame when you think about your past? Can you trust that God has forgiven you?

b. How will your life change if you learn to trust God’s forgiveness?

PRAY

Lord, thank you for redemption. Thank you for the forgiveness of sin. Thank you for transferring me from Satan’s kingdom and into your blessed arms. I love you. I am grateful. Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- [*Future Grace, Revised Edition: The Purifying Power of the Promises of God*](#) – a book from John Piper (Multnomah)
- [*“When You Believe In God But Are Ashamed of Your Past”*](#) – a blog post from Greg Groeschel at <https://bit.ly/2HtnjUI>

NEXT WEEK’S BIG IDEA

In Colossians 1:15, Jesus is described as the image of the invisible God.

