

Salt Church

Colossians 1:1-14

“Rescued, Transferred, Purchased”

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The Supremacy of Christ

David & Cindy (Oct 21-25)

Setting

- Paul is in Rome under house arrest approximately 60 -62 ad.
- He is under arrest because he is viewed as a trouble maker
- Colossians is considered one of four “prison letters” along with Ephesians, Philippians, and Philemon.

Colossians 1:1-14 (NLT)

1 This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy.

- Isn't it interesting how 1st century writers identify themselves at the beginning of the letter as compared how we identify ourselves at the end.
- “Chosen by the will of God” is a reminder of how God works
 - He calls, we respond, this is how salvation works
- Paul mentions “Timothy”
 - Everybody needs three people in their life
 - You need a Paul, someone who will speak truth into you especially when it hurts

- You need a Barnabas, an encourager who refuses to allow you to give up
- You need a Timothy, that person that you build into.

² We are writing to God's holy people in the city of Colosse, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ.

- One church!
 - Have you ever thought about that?
 - This letter like so many of the early church letters are addressed to one church, one body of believers.
 - No denominations (yet)
 - But there were doctrinal disagreements which is why so many of these letters were written.

May God our Father give you grace and peace.

- I love that, don't you?
 - Grace and peace is what we really want
 - Paul is already praying this blessing over this church.

³ We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Kind words
 - Why would Paul remind this church that God is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ?
 - Is this the 1st clue as to why this letter was written?

⁴For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, ⁵which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven.

- I am not sure what Paul had heard about this church family but whatever it was they were known for:
 - Faith in Jesus Christ
 - Love for each other
 - Confident hope in the promises of the Word of God
- **Salt Church we must be known for the same reasons**

You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.

- The gospel (good news) had changed their lives.
 - It had sealed their faith and given them love and hope.
 - That is why the teaching of God's Word is so important.
 - Only **God's Word** offers faith, hope, & love.

⁶This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world.

- What a joy it is to know that God is at work saving the lost no matter where people are.
 - You and I were once part of the world but now we are part of the family of God.
- How does the "Good News" travel all over the world?
 - Like a virus!
 - It spreads from one believer to the next.

- Therefore we can conclude that each of us have the ministry of evangelism.
- Each of us has the responsibility of sharing the “Good News” to those around us.

It (GODS WORD) is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God’s wonderful grace.

- What a beautiful run-on sentence
 - God’s Word is bearing fruit “everywhere by changing lives”
 - This is the key indicator that someone is saved.
 - It is impossible to encounter the risen Christ and their lives not be changed forever!
- What makes the gospel so compelling?
 - God’s wonderful grace
 - Grace is when you don’t get what you deserve.
 - We deserve eternal death but thanks be to God we receive eternal life.
 - That is God’s mercy

7 You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker.

- Epaphras (we believe) was the man that started this church
 - Most likely he knew the gospel message but lacked what Paul will provide in this letter.

He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf.

- Clearly Paul knows him but it is unclear if he was dispatched from Paul's camp.
- What is clear is that he is remembered in the most important book ever written. (The Bible)

⁸He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.

- Have you noticed what Paul has already done?
 - He has confirmed the doctrine of the trinity in just 8 verses.
 - For he has “thanked God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” and brought to their attention “the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.”
 - I bring this to your attention because there are preachers and denominations that reject the idea of the Holy Trinity. (Mormons, Jehovah Witness, Iglesia ni Cristo, Oneness Pentecostals)
 - I do not know what they do with verses like this one.

⁹So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.

- Every time the Spirit of God brings the Colossian church to Paul's mind he prays for “complete knowledge of His will and for spiritual wisdom and understanding.”
 - This is and was so important in the early church.

The (CSB) says it this way:

- ***“We are asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding,”***
 - With that in mind what do we remember from our study of the book of James?
 - Wisdom is knowledge applied
 - God gives wisdom generously to those who ask for it
- What is spiritual understanding?
 - How is it different from wisdom?
 - You can be wise in the things of the world.
 - You can understand the 2nd law of thermodynamics and apply it to your life and your understanding of how the world works but that does not give you spiritual understanding.
 - **Spiritual understanding is Spiritual discernment.**
 - **It's Godly wisdom**
 - It's how a preacher can read the same passage as you and see a deeper truth.
 - Here is the best part:
 - **Spiritual understanding is available to all believers!**

What happens when you have Spiritual understanding and wisdom? (verse 10)

¹⁰ Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit.

- Wisdom and spiritual understanding produce in us a life that honors God and pleases the Lord and the result of that is the production of every kind of good fruit.

(Good Fruit)

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

If there is good fruit there must be bad fruit, **is there a list of bad fruit?**

- I was hoping you ask!

(Bad Fruit)

Galatians 5:19-21

¹⁹ When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear:

- **sexual immorality** (shacking up, “fornication”, or sex outside of marriage it includes adultery, “pornea”),
- **impurity** (in the Greek it relates to lustful thought or deed “homosexuality”),
- **lustful pleasures** (pornography, walking around half naked, “no restraints”),
- **²⁰ idolatry** (anything that you put above God),

- **sorcery** (illegal drug use, consulting spirits, or spiritual mediums, “**pharmakeia**”),
- **hostility** (**deep seated anger** towards people),
- **quarreling** (NO PEACE & LOVE FOR DRAMA),
- **jealousy** (not happy for others success),
- **outbursts of anger** (Cannot control your mouth),
- **selfish ambition** (selfish in every way even the little things),
- **dissension**, (standing apart, opposed to union)
- **division**, (“**heresy**” to stand opposed in strong opinion, to spread division through heresy)
- **²¹ envy**, (happy at others misfortune or pain)
- **drunkenness**, (to be a drunk!) “**the wine issue**”
- **wild parties**, (a riotous party (**drunken feast**) which hosted unbridled sexual immorality; hence, revelings (debauched "partying").
 - **and other sins like these.**

Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

GOD IS NOT A LIAR!

- Paul added to this; if you can live in unrepented sin, this issue is a salvation issue.
 - In other words although you believe in Christ (the demons believe in Christ) is He Lord over your life?

If He is lord...

¹⁰ Then the way you live will **always honor and please the Lord**, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

(CSB)

¹⁰ so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and growing in the knowledge of God,

- “All the while” and “growing in the knowledge” are phrases that tell us that ***we never stop growing***,
- We never “fully arrive”
 - We mature, but keep in mind we will never stop growing in the Lord, ***even in Heaven!***

¹¹ We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need.

(CSB)

¹¹ being **strengthened** with all power, according to his glorious might, so that you may have **great endurance** and **patience**,

- What does this tell us?
 - We are going to need strength

- Endurance
- Patience

▪ ***These are not words that we would use to describe a great vacation.***

○ ***There is difficulty coming***

- There is no promise of health or wealth
 - The Gospel of Jesus Christ is not “pray this prayer” and you will receive health and wealth
 - The Gospel of Jesus Christ is that you receive Jesus Christ and He is more than enough.

Jesus said these words:

John 15:20

²⁰ Do you remember what I told you? ‘A slave is not greater than the master.’ Since they persecuted me, naturally they will persecute you. And if they had listened to me, they would listen to you.

Matthew 5:11-12

¹¹ “God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers. ¹² Be happy about it! Be very glad! For a great reward awaits you in heaven. And remember, the ancient prophets were persecuted in the same way.

Paul said through the power of the Holy Spirit:

2 Timothy 3:12

¹² Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

(Jesus)

John 16:33

³³ I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.”

We conclude that Paul was very wise in praying for their patient endurance.

May you be filled with joy, ¹² always thanking the Father.

- This sounds like a strange command especially when we just learned that we will suffer.
- But Paul knows what many of us already know.
 - The mark of spiritual maturity is the ability to praise God in the middle of the storm.
 - In every circumstance in life!

Here’s how we can praise Him in the middle of the storm:

He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.

- This is what Paul was talking about in verse 5
 - ***⁵ which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven.***
- God’s people are not looking for an eternal home here on earth

- God's people are not looking for a home that is built by human hands
 - God's people rest in the promises of His Word.

What are you talking about Pastor?

John 14:1-4 (Jesus talking)

*14 “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ² There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, **would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?**³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.”*

- Let me “let you in” on a little secret here
 - The “room or the mansion” is not the greatest draw!
 - What makes Heaven so wonderful is GOD!!!!

We close today with a reminder of what God the Father has done for us:

*¹³ For he has **rescued** us from the kingdom of darkness and **transferred** us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who **purchased** our freedom and forgave our sins.*

- “Rescued, Transferred, and Purchased”
 - This is who we are in Christ
 - The kingdom of darkness is ruled by Satan
 - Jesus defeated Satan and death, on the cross.
 - Satan knows this

- Satan has lost the war but he has not been thrown into prison.
 - When a defeated king knows he has lost the war and has not been captured he orders a “scorched earth” policy.
 - Total destruction
 - Leave nothing for our enemy
 - This is what Jesus “Rescued” us from
 - Total destruction.

Transferred

- We have been transferred into the Kingdom of Heaven
 - Jesus is the King
 - No longer are we subject to our former king Satan
 - But here is the catch
 - We live in the ***“already but not yet”***
 - Yes, we have been transferred already but we have not yet been moved to our new home.
 - We are still on the battle ground called earth.
 - The date of our transfer is unknown but certain
 - It comes when we take our last breath here on earth and our 1st breath in Heaven

How did Jesus secure our transfer?

- He purchased us

- Hebrews 9:22 says that without the shedding of blood there can be no forgiveness.
 - His blood purchased our forgiveness when we submit to Him as Lord.

His blood did not secure a 2nd chance!

- “God is a God of second chances” is a horrible understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - If all we were offered was a second chance we would fail again and again.
 - We need a permanent solution; a perfect sacrifice.
 - We need a substitute

Close with a chemistry test and prayer

- We need a substitute
 - We need to be “Rescued, Transferred, and Purchased”