



A new creation focus through Colossians ...

Transferred

It is an exhilarating moment when the prisoner steps through the gates of confinement into the openness of freedom! It was a time of great rejoicing when the Berlin Wall came down, or in those instances where slaves were emancipated! But those are mere freedoms in a physical world, used by God to set the stage for true freedom. Here is what Jesus, the great Emmanuel and Savior of the world had to say about this: "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin" (John 8:34). God's goal is to help the residents of earth understand that spiritual enslavement is

really far worse than physical or political enslavement; if they can understand that, they will desire the freedom that results from participating in the life of Jesus. "If therefore the Son shall make you free," said the Christ, "you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). The gospel therefore paints a picture of each adult-minded individual in a sin jailhouse of his own making, follows with a description of Jesus' sacrifice and concomitant intercession as high priest, and details the belief and obedience required for the individual to thus enjoy the abundant life as a spiritually free follower of Christ.

- **Deliverance** — When the individual commits his first sin — by his own choice — he is entrapped by the deceiver, the serpent of old. Because the bars of his jail cannot be seen by the eye or gauged by any of the senses, the person is generally unaware that he is even in any sort of slavery. Hence part of the gospel message is bringing the facts about the sinner's dreadful condition to his attention. Then comes the good news: "For He [Christ] delivered us from the domain of darkness," Paul informs us, "and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son" (Colossians 1:13). This deliverance could never be accomplished by any human effort; it took the sacrifice of God's only begotten Son, and the beyond-description-spiritual-power of the Almighty to get the Son out of Hades and to place Him at the right hand of the Majesty on High. Having thus opened the way, Jesus then communicated the procedures of deliverance for any interested disciples through the apostles. Any person, then, whether of Jewish or Gentile background, can believe in the Jesus as the Christ, repent of his thoughts and ways, confess Jesus as Lord, and be immersed in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of his sins and receive the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit. In this way he is delivered from Satan's dark domain and transferred into Christ's kingdom.

- **Transference** — As awesome as it is to be delivered from the domain of darkness, it is much more important to focus on the wonders of being in the kingdom of Christ. In the realm of darkness, the residents are blind and blundering around, stumbling over the spiritual objects in their way, falling and getting hurt, and often dying in that abject condition. But in Christ's kingdom, the kingdom of light as contrasted to the domain of darkness, the saints can see with increasing clarity the awesomeness of our God! They are now enlightened, they have tasted of the heavenly gift, they have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and they have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come (taken from Hebrews 6:4,5). "Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ," exclaimed the apostle Paul, "who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3 — directly spoken to those of Jewish background, but by extension also to the Gentiles in Christ).

The contrast between the domain of darkness and the kingdom of Christ could scarcely be greater. The saint, then, as he increasingly comprehends what Jesus has done for him in delivering him from that domain and transferring him into Christ's kingdom, marvels at the love of God. He willingly commits to serving Christ with every fiber of his being, and is willing to offer God the highest praise and ultimate gratitude!

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