

Delivered From The Domain Of Darkness

Hope Chapel Honolulu

Colossians 1:1-14

¹¹ May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.¹³ 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. (Colossians 1:11-14, ESV)

Introduction

When Paul wrote to the church in Colossae, he was writing to a group of believers who were raised and surrounded by outsiders who were accustomed to making up their own truth and beliefs, being their own gods, often for the sake of convenience. But it was not much better inside the church where some made up rules to qualify themselves while disqualifying others who wouldn't or couldn't follow their manmade rules and religious practices. So the Holy Spirit revealed the superiority of Christ over all human philosophies and traditions by comparing the domain of darkness with His kingdom of light.

1. Thanking God for the hope He has prepared for you and I. (Colossians 1:1-5a)

- a) Their faith in Christ and love for all the saints made Paul, Timothy and Epaphras glad.
- b) Thanking God for what He has done for others.

2. Receiving and giving hope to others through the Gospel. (Colossians 1:5b-8)

- a) How do we communicate hope in our presentation of the Gospel?
- b) How well do you partner with others in showing and telling the Gospel?

3. The what and why of our hope in Christ. (Colossians 1:9-14)

- a) Knowing God's will requires more than just our intellectual or emotional effort.
- b) God the Father has qualified you and I to share in Christ's inheritance of the saints in light.

Conclusion

When I read the introductory section to this letter to the church at Colossae, I feel like I probably don't pray as much as Paul, Timothy or Epaphras, and I'm pretty sure that we don't pray for the same things that our First Century fathers and mothers in the faith prayed for. May this prayer of Paul--to be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding so that we might increasingly resemble and represent Christ through our words, works and relationships, and be strengthened with all of God's power for endurance and patience with joy--be fulfilled in our lives, too!

For our prayerful study, discussion and application:

- 1) What is this hope and inheritance that God has qualified us to receive in Christ?
- 2) What does it mean to have been transferred from the domain of darkness to the kingdom of Christ?
- 3) What are the Word and Spirit of God saying to you through this passage of the Bible?

050519cdg@hch