

Colossians 1:12-14

Qualified, Delivered, Transferred, Redeemed, Forgiven!

03/15/20

Open your Bibles, please to Colossians 1, I will read verses 9 through 14

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,¹⁰ 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;¹¹ being 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.¹

As you know we just finished up looking at the prayer Paul prayed for these saints in Colossae and to summarize his prayer for them, I think we can simply say that Paul is praying that they would continue to know God, they would be strengthened by God, so they would have the power to obey God and endure difficult people and difficult circumstances, as they joyfully give thanks to God for bringing them into His kingdom....

It took two 45 minute sermons to say all of that, and let me encourage you to go to the church website and listen to any past sermons so you can stay caught up with what you missed since each sermon builds upon the previous one.....

The one thing I attempted to emphasize last Sunday that is so important is that the power that He is praying that we would be strengthened with is a power that is outside of us, we do not naturally possess it, yet it resides in us, if we are believing Christians.....

And the reason this is so important is that the false teachers were telling the Colossians that they need more.... Christ is not enough..... In fact, turn to chapter 2 verse 8 so you can see what I mean....

“See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.⁹ For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,¹⁰ and you have been filled in him,^{2”}

1 [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Col 1:9–14). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

2 [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Col 2:8–10). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

We aren't here yet, and I will explain it in detail when we do get here..... But I just wanted to give you a small peek of some of Paul's coming exhortations where Paul is challenging these believers to not be taken captive by these things that detract from Christ....and why? Because there is no need!

Verse 9 is a claim that Jesus is God, and verse 10 tells us that these believers have been filled up in Him, which means that God is in them..... God abides or resides in them...

If you are a believing Christian.....God resides in you..... the 3rd person of the Trinity takes up permanent residence in every genuine believer..... so, you don't need to be taken captive by philosophy and human tradition and so on.....It is similar to what Paul states in Romans 8, "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

You see, it is not just here in Colossians, but all over the New Testament, Paul is stating and restating over and over and over that You possess the power of god.....You have Christ..... and Christ is enough.....

And, this takes us back to the prayer Paul prays for them to be "strengthened with all power according to God's glorious might." Since believers are filled up in God, or since God is in them.....Paul's prayer is **not** that they need something new or exciting that will help them in the Christian life.....

No, Paul's prayer is that they would understand the very power of God that currently indwells them by the Holy Spirit.... We defined His glorious power as the same power God exhibited in Creation, in Redemption, and in the Resurrection..... This is the power that Paul is praying that we would be strengthened by.....

This may sound crazy, and, it is a mystery.....but the power that spoke the world into existence out of nothing resides in you if you are a Christian believer..... the power that parted the Red Sea and that brings a person from death to life, that redemptive power resides in you if you are a Christian believer..... and the power that brought Jesus back to life, that resurrection power resides in you, if you are are a born again Christian.....

So, in our weakness, we cry out to Him for strength..... And we continue to learn more and more about Him through the normal means of grace.... Showing up for church, preaching, prayer, participating in the Lord' Supper, Baptism, fellowshiping with God's people.....And the more we understand our great God, our big God, our all powerful God, the more we will understand how his strength

*supplies our every need.....

*provides comfort for our every sorrow....

*Give us grace to deal with the difficulties we face living in a sin cursed world.....

it is true that everything we need for life and godliness is available to us through the Lord Jesus Christ.....

Today, we are going to spend all of our time in verse 12-14, looking at 5 words in particular....

.Qualified, Delivered, Transferred, Redeemed, and Forgiven.....

And, you might be wondering as the sermon progresses why I am stating and restating the same points over and over and over..... because we spent time last week examining regeneration and justification from Titus 3.....and I explained at least parts of the process of salvation, attempting to communicate more than anything else that salvation is an act of divine mercy.....

And the reason it will sound like I am saying the same thing again today is because the verses we are looking at state and restate the same thing.....in verse 12, we are told that it is “the father who has both qualified and given us a share in His inheritance.” In verse 13, it is the father who delivers us..... He is also the one who transfers us.....and, then in verse 14, it is through His Son through Christ, we have both redemption and forgiveness of sin.

It is God who accomplishes all of these things.... And we are totally helpless..... we are unqualified.... We are not part of his family, so we have no inheritance.....we are born in sin, so live in darkness, and we are not part of his kingdom..... You see, we have nothing.... Yet He gives us everything... He does it through redemption and forgiving us of our sin..... we will come back to this in detail....

And, these truths are so important for them to live out the Christian life that Paul will state the same ideas in verse 21,

“And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him³”

Here, he reminds us that we have nothing to offer except your alienation, hostility, and your evil deeds..... He, He, He reconciles you... He presents you holy and blameless.... Through the life, death, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus... again, salvation is according to God’s own mercy.....

And, if this is not enough, he restates in another way in chapter 2 verse 13, "And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with

3 [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Col 1:21–22). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, ¹⁴ by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him."

In these verses, we are not just unqualified, in darkness, and alienated..... here, Paul says, we were dead.... and who made us alive in Christ? God!.....by forgiving our trespasses, and our debts are canceled, through Christ death on the cross.... and now the demonic rulers and authorities have no power over us....

Paul is emphasizing over and over and over the truths about the depravity our helplessness and inability of man, and the only rescue that is available to us.....that saves us, redeems us, reconciles us, that qualifies and delivers us is Christ.....

In a real sense, Paul is telling and retelling the story that we are commanded to remember when we partake of the Lord's supper. It is at the table we are to remember His body that was broken for us, and remember His blood that was spilt on our behalf.... we are a forgetful people, and every reminder of our sin, Christ's sacrifice is crucial in helping us remain grateful for our salvation.....

Part of the reason Paul is instructing them on what happened to them at salvation is because when we first become believers, we really don't know what happened.... I know for me, I knew I was a sinner.... I was overwhelmed with guilt and shame..... and when I heard that Jesus died for me and my sin and that I needed to believe in Him to be forgiven....I did.....

It was not until I began reading my bible that I began to understand how far my sin separated me from God.....and real price that Jesus paid on my behalf..... And all that took place in my heart when I trusted Christ..... and it was not until I began reading my Bible that I understood the real cost of my salvation.....

When Deb was pregnant with our first born, Courtney, she developed toxemia, and delivered Courtney 6 weeks early by emergency C section. We knew Deb was sick, but we did not know how sick and how dangerous toxemia is to the mom until we got home and started to read.....of course, this was "pre internet," so we had to actually crack open real books with real pages.....

And, I do think this is similar to our salvation experience.....God regenerates our heart, we hear God's word and believe, we are justified in His sight..... but the moment we were saved, all we knew was that we were saved.... we learn what happened as we grow, read God's Word and sit under the word.....

You see, we know from the early part of the letter that these Colossian believers heard, understood and believed the good news about Christ....Which means we know that they already have understood their sin and that Christ was the only savior for their sin.....

and now Paul is explaining the finer points of what happened to them in the process of salvation....He is going to state it and restate it until we all get it.....

And as I have said before..... Those who are saved from cataclysmic events like 9/11 normally never forget their rescuer, or the circumstances around it, sometimes the anniversary of their rescue, and for many, it transforms their very lives.....

What we have to understand that God's rescue of our eternal souls from hell, damnation, judgment, and his wrathconsidering how unworthy we are, how unholy we are, and how we have lived our lives as His enemies..... when we understand our state of rebellion..... our ultimate destination in hell..... and the price that was paid to save us, "he did not spare his own son." this should transform us forever..... and move us to express thanksgiving to Him for the rest of our lives.

This is why we need doctrine to anchor our faith.... Paul is explaining the doctrine of salvation to these young Christians.....and by saying it over and over and over, he is desperate for them to fully understand it.

Let's jump back in our text and notice the first of the 5 wordsIn verse 12 he states, "giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light."⁴ we touched on this last week....

I wonder if any of you have received an inheritance? And, if you have received one, or you will be receiving one, or you will be leaving one.....in most cases an inheritance is passed down through the family blood line..... And if you had wealthy parents, and whether you were an only child or you had siblings, in most cases, you would qualify for a share in the inheritance by virtue of your birth. Clearly a person can lose an inheritance through bad behavior..... a person can lose an inheritance by not living up to the desires and expectations of the one who has the resources in his possession.....but in general, inheritances are passed down from parents to children.....inheritances are part of the family....

And, clearly, the inheritance that Paul is talking about here is unlike any inheritance we have ever seen..... it isn't about inheriting houses, and boats, and trust funds or anything perishable.....the inheritance that Paul is talking about here is the inheritance of eternal life, it is the inheritance of the kingdom of God.....It is the place Jesus promised that He was preparing for us and would take us to so we could be together forever.....

4 [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Col 1:12). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Peter describes it as something that is imperishable, undefiled, unfading, kept in heaven for us. And the fact that Paul states that God has qualified them to share in the inheritance of the saints in light does tell us that there was a time when they weren't qualified.....You see, if you were now qualified to share in it, the assumption is before you were qualified, you were unqualified...and, it is the Father who qualified you.....

And the reason why a person would not be qualified to share in this eternal, heavenly inheritance is similar to the reasons why a person does not share in a worldly inheritance..... to qualify, you must be part of the family..... to qualify, you must be a son or daughter.....and no one is born into the family of God unless they are born again..... so our qualification for this inheritance begins with a new birth..... We are all children of God, or what Paul calls god's offspring in Acts 17 in a physical sense because he is the creator..... but none of us at birth are the spiritual children of God..... none of us at birth are in God's eternal family.....

When Jesus told the Pharisees in John 8, " You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires...." he is speaking about everyone who has ever been born..... we are all of our father the devil the moment we are born.....

And, because of this, we by nature or by birthright, we do not qualify for any inheritance because we are not part of the family of God....we are unqualified..... and unable to become qualified..... we can't fill out a form to become qualified..... we can't get the right education..... we can't join the right club..... we can't do enough good things..... It is a qualification that we can never attain on our own.....

One commentator describes qualifies as, "'to make sufficient, render fit, qualify.'" The Father made them fit to partake of the inheritance of the saints by placing them in Christ, in whom they enjoy a standing which makes them the objects of God's grace.⁵

What that means is, we did not, we cannot, and we have not done anything to cause ourselves to be qualified..... being qualified for this inheritance is outside of ourselves....

And, when you glance up at chapter 1 verse 4, we know that these Colossian believers are qualified because Paul is thanking God that they understood the grace of God in truth..... that they have put their faith in Christ to save them..... and because of this, because they are saved, because they are in Christ, they qualify for this inheritance because they belong to a new family, a blood bought family, the true, eternal family of God.....

5 Wuest, K. S. (1997). *Wuest's word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader* (Col 1:11). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

And not only are they qualified to share in this inheritance, notice the 2nd part of the text that tells us what God has done for us..... "he has delivered us from the domain of darkness....." and it is a small thing, but notice that Paul moves from speaking about "you or them" to "we and us." As he is writing, or dictating this letter, he probably is getting so excited about all that God has done in Christ that instead of just explaining this to these new believers what he has done for them.....,

Paul is saying, not just you, but us..... all believers in Christ, including me..... "**We** are delivered from the domain or power of darkness,," meaning first of all, we were at one point under the domain or power of darkness.....we would not need deliverance from something we weren't under the power of, would we? Surely, Paul is thinking of his own life before he came to Christ..... how he persecuted Christians, and persecuted Christ, even though he thought he was serving Him..... He was delivered from this

And, of course, this lines up with what I just said about being born into the family of Satan..... what we will notice by the time we finish looking at the 3 words qualified, delivered, and transferred is that they are all interconnected and they all overlap.....Our being born into the family of Satan, means that we are under the domain of darkness..... we are under the power of darkness..... and that word darkness means, "the realm of sin and evil— It is possible that it is a figurative reference to the Devil or Satan,⁶it also simply means, 'evil world, realm of evil,.....

Darkness throughout Scripture is a metaphor for evil and sin, just as light is a metaphor for righteousness and even a description of Christ, the light of the world..... remember when all of God's wrath was poured out on Christ on the cross, darkness was over the land for a period of 3 hours..... remember when Judas went out to betray Jesus, John adds the little phrase, "and it was night" to remind us of the darkness and sin and evil that the betrayal represented.....

In John 3, the verdict against us, the verdict against mankind is that men love darkness rather than the light because our deeds are evil.....we need deliverance from this darkness..... we need deliverance from our bondage to sin.....the deliverance mentioned here is a deliverance from a power of which we are slaves..... it is more than a deliverance, it is a rescue,.....one commentator describes it as a rescue that comes "from the strong arm of God who is a mighty conqueror."

Only, he can rescue us from sin and evil..... only he can deliver us from satan's rule and reign..... only he has the power to conquer sin.....think back to your life before you became a Christian.....when you were living a life of secrecy and dishonesty..... keeping things away from those you were closest to..... trapped in immorality, lies, ashamed, guilty.....or, maybe

⁶ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 755). New York: United Bible Societies.

you were just a self-righteous moralist..... thinking you are better, believing that you are in right standing before God.....looking down on others and not seeing your own sin.....and, yet knowing deep in your soul and in the quietness of your heart that you will never pass the bar of God's judgment.,..... and, in all these cases, no power to change.... not power to be free.....no power to be delivered..... this darkness Paul is talking about symbolizes our separation from God.....

Remember when Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden, they hid from God..... the fellowship, friendship, and relationship they had with God was severed, and they no longer had access to his presence.....they no longer were able to live in the light of His glory.....Now, because of sin, they were in and under the domain of darkness..... and as they were expelled from the garden, they were aware that there was nothing they could do to re-enter God's presence, His unapproachable light on their own..... on their own merit, with their own goodness, their own purity.....they were now prisoners, captives, in bondage to sin.....

But, thanks be to God..... "he has delivered us from the domain of darkness." He conquered sin..... he conquered Satan.....And these new believers are hearing this from Paul, possibly for the very first time.....what a joy to first hear that since they were in Christ, they were qualified for their future inheritance..... so the future was as bright as ever.....

but God did not just save them or rescue them to stumble and bumble through life until they made it to their eternal inheritance..... no..... their deliverance from the power of darkness has present implication..... so that they do have the power and the grace to walk in a manner that is worthy of the Lord.....to put to death sin, to put off the old self and put on the new self.....They by the grace of God are no longer in Satan's family, and no longer under his rule and reign.....

And, this moves us right to the next thing Paul mentions that we should be joyously thankful for.....the end of verse 13 states, " and (HE has) transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,"

Remember I said they overlap..... we are born into the family of Satan.....We are under the domain and rule of evil and Satan.....And, since Paul is telling us that we have been transferred into the kingdom of His beloved Son..... this means apart from God transferring us we not only live in the family of the devil.....we also live in the kingdom his kingdom..... I John 5:19 tells us "that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one." Calvin writes, " Under the term *world*, the Apostle no doubt includes the whole human race. By saying that it *lieth in the wicked one*, he represents it as being under the dominion of Satan.⁷

⁷ Calvin, J., & Owen, J. (2010). *Commentaries on the Catholic Epistles* (p. 272). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

Now, without running down a very long rabbit trail and being completely off topic, I want to at least say that the power Satan has is both a delegated and regulated power.....there is not a cosmic battle taking place where God wins sometimes and Satan wins sometimes..... and we are hoping that God wins in the end..... No, God is sovereign and He rules over all..... But Scripture does call Satan the God of this world..... the prince of this world.....the ruler of this world..... And as Paul describes our state before we were Christians, he shows that Satan's power is real and it is active..... he writes in Eph 2:2

in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—⁸ Satan is considered a power, and is clearly still at work..... but again, his power, his rule, and his reign are subject to the rule and reign of our Sovereign God..... he has a delegated power, He still answers to Almighty god.....

But, what this does mean is we were born into his kingdom, following His rule and His reign..... and our union with Christ transfers us into the kingdom of His beloved son." This word transfer has the same idea of when a king would conquer a foreign land..... and all those who were not killed in battle or executed in the nation are brought back to the conquering king's land in order to become his subjects..... When Nebuchadnezzar conquered Judah, and he brought back many men and women who he transferred into his kingdom.....Shadrach, Meshack, Abendego, and Daniel, were among those who were transferred into the Babylonian kingdom.....

And when you are transferred into the kingdom of Christ, the expectation is you are going to become not only loyal to your new King..... but conforming to the King's decrees, edicts, and even his character.....because he brought you in and now have a different citizenship.....

When you put these 3 things together, it is staggering when you think of what we were born into and what we ultimately are **brought** into..... Born unqualified and outside the family of God.... No inheritance, under the rule and reign of Satan and sin and darkness..... we were without God and without hope of ever being in His kingdom.

And, through His own mercy, through His substitutionary perfect atoning sacrifice.....we now qualify to have an eternal inheritance with other believers we are freed from the power of sin, Satan, and darkness; and we are citizens in a new kingdom where Jesus rules and reigns.....

I don't know if there is a better illustration of this than the One Bunyon describes in Pilgrims Progress.....

⁸ *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*. (2001). (Eph 2:2). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

Listen as I begin with the encounter Christian has with Satan or Apollyon..... and this is not long after Christian looked to the cross and the burden of his sin was removed from his back.....and he was transferred into the kingdom of Christ..... He is walking along the path and Apollyon approaches him.....

APOL. Whence came you, and whither are you bound?

CHR. I am come from the city of Destruction, which is the place of all evil, and I am going to the city of Zion.

APOL. By this I perceive thou art one of my subjects; for all that country is mine, and I am the prince and god of it. How is it, then, that thou hast run away from thy king? Were it not that I hope thou mayest do me more service, I would strike thee now at one blow to the ground.

CHR. I was, indeed, born in your dominions, but your service was hard, and your wages such as a man could not live on; for the wages of sin is death, Rom. 6:23; therefore, when I was come to years, I did, as other considerate persons do, look out if perhaps I might mend myself.

APOL. There is no prince that will thus lightly lose his subjects, neither will I as yet lose thee; but since thou complainest of thy service and wages, be content to go back, and what our country will afford I do here promise to give thee.

CHR. But I have let myself to another, even to the King of princes; and how can I with fairness go back with thee?

APOL. Thou hast done in this according to the proverb, "changed a bad for a worse;" but it is ordinary for those that have professed themselves his servants, after a while to give him the slip, and return again to me. Do thou so to, and all shall be well.

CHR. I have given him my faith, and sworn my allegiance to him; how then can I go back from this, and not be hanged as a traitor.

APOL. Thou didst the same by me, and yet I am willing to pass by all, if now thou wilt yet turn again and go back.

CHR. What I promised thee was in my non-age: and besides, I count that the Prince, under whose banner I now stand, is able to absolve me, yea, and to pardon also what I did as to my compliance with thee. And besides, O thou destroying Apollyon, to speak truth, I like his service, his wages, his servants, his government, his company, and country, better than thine; therefore leave off to persuade me farther: I am his servant, and I will follow him.⁹

Born into the family of Satan..... born under the rule and reign and dominion and power of evil, sin, and satan..... born in the kingdom of Satan..... the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.....

and through no thought of your own..... no desire of your own..... no attempt on your own,..... no merit of your own..... no righteousness of your own..... no good works of your own..... you brought nothing to the table except your disqualification, your slavery, and your bondage.....

9 Bunyan, J. (1995). *The pilgrim's progress: From this world to that which is to come*. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

and in his marvelous grace and mercy, he qualified you for an eternal inheritance with all believers for all time..... and he delivered you from the power and domain of sin and darkness..... and he transferred you into the kingdom of His beloved Son.....The son of His love..... **maybe we should sing Hallelujah what a Savior again**

Now, in my sermon title, there are 5 key words, but we have only looked at 3.....and I am viewing these last two words of verse 14 separately than I am the first 3 because it is here where Paul makes this purposeful shift to begin to describe the work of the Beloved Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Before he begins his detailed description of the Son in verse 15 and following, he describes the work the Son did on our behalf that explains why we are qualified, why we are delivered, and why we have been transferred..... It is because in the son, in Christ Jesus, we have two of the most precious gifts known to man..... redemption, and subsequently the forgiveness of sins.....Without these two things, we would still be unqualified, still be in bondage to sin and evil, and we would still be under the rule, authority, power, family, and kingdom of Satan.

In Christ, we have redemption.....The meaning of the word itself is so rich that we need to have a full understanding of it.....It means, "to release or set free, with the implied analogy to the process of freeing a slave—'to liberate, to deliver.'¹⁰ Going even further, the word means, *"a releasing effected by payment of ransom."* *it is the Word was commonly used to describe the purchase money in freeing slaves.....Barclay describes it as the buying back of something that was in the power of someone or something else.....*

Just like the other 3 words we have looked at..... the fact that in Christ we have redemption implies we were in a state prior to Christ where we needed to be redeemed..... which means, prior to conversion we were slaves.....Romans 6 describes us as slaves of sin, slaves of impurity..... and Titus 3 describes us as slaves of various passions.....we know that the penalty or the wages of our sin is eternal death and eternal torment in hell.....

As slaves, we were helpless, we were powerless, our lives were hopeless, and we had no possibility of freeing ourselves from the slavery we were born into.... and what redemption means is more than freedom..... Christ did not just come into our lives and loosen our chains and let us go.....No..... to free a slave, a price had to be paid.....to free a slave an exchange had to take place.....to free a slave someone had to pay a ransom.....

¹⁰ Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. (1996). *Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: based on semantic domains* (electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 487). New York: United Bible Societies.

And, let me remind you that in Mark 10:45 that Jesus proclaimed that he did not come in to the world "to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."¹¹

This concept and idea of a ransom and redemption is not just in the New Testament.....

You see, because sin involved punishment..... because the wages of sin is death and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins, each and every time an Israelite sinned, it brought judgment upon the sinner and a sacrifice had to be made to pay for the sin..... something or someone had to die as a substitute in place of the sinner.....the sinner needed redemption, he needed a ransom..... and throughout the Old Testament, lambs and rams and bulls and goats were sacrificed in order to redeem or set free the sinner from his just punishment.....The animal sacrifice was the ransom payment in order to redeem the sinner or buy back or liberate the sinner

And, here in Colossians 1, Paul explains that we have redemption in Christ..... which means that Christ paid the ransom for our redemption.....We who were slaves of sin and under God's wrath and deserving of His just punishment were purchased..... were bought back..... freed from our bondage and slavery and the wrath we deserve because the Lord Jesus sacrificed His life for ours on the cross.....paying for our sin, dying in our place.....Peter explains it in I Peter 1

"knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold,¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.¹²"

The idea that Jesus was without spot or blemish is crucial to our redemption... the only sacrifice God would accept as a payment for our sin was a perfect one, one without spot.... In this case, one who was sinless.... The Getty's get it right in their song, "In Christ alone."

"Because the sinless saviour died, my sinful soul was counted free..... for God the judged was satisfied to look on him and pardon me, to look on him and pardon me."

And, the results of our redemption, similar to the results in the Old Testament when an animal was sacrificed for a guilty sinner, the results are in verse 14, "The forgiveness of sins." In Christ, we have redemption and the forgiveness of sins.....

This phrase for forgiveness of sins also has a rich meaning..... *it means to "release as from bondage or imprisonment."* One commentator describes it as..... *"the act of God at Calvary, paying the penalty of human sin, thus satisfying the just demands of His holy law, putting away sin, bidding it go away. This was symbolized in the O.T., by the goat, laden with the sins of Israel,*

11 *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version.* (2001). (Mk 10:45). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

12 *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version.* (2001). (1 Pe 1:18–19). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

being led away into the wilderness and lost. Israel never saw that goat again, and thus never saw its sins again."

Psalm 103:12, "As far as east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us."

Beloved, we are qualified, we are delivered, and we are transferred because Christ paid the penalty for our sin on the cross.... He who knew no sin became sin for us, that in Him we might become the righteousness of God..... Colossians 1:20 restates it, " and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross..... We have peace because we are redeemed..... we have peace because we are forgiven..... we have peace because God established with us through the precious gift of His son, who is called the prince of peace....

All of this and so much more happened to you when you trusted in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ to save you.....you have a glorious inheritance awaiting you.....you have been freed from your previous bondage to sin, and you serve a new King, Jesus, who has welcomed you, transferred you into His glorious kingdom.....so live and walk in such a way that demonstrates your gratitude and your allegiance to Him.....

I wonder if everyone in here has peace with God this morning? I wonder if you are fully confident that your sins are forgiven? I wonder if everyone in here can give testimony that Christ has ransomed you, paid for your sin, and you are freed from his wrath? Or still carry a burden on your back because you have not admitted to God that you are a helpless sinner and you have not looked to the cross, the sacrifice of Christ to save you from your sin.....If that is you, what are you waiting for?

Life is a vapor, it appears for a little time and vanishes away..... those of you who do not know Christ, if it is not the Coronavirus, it will be something else..... today is the day of salvation..... admit to God you are a sinner.....express your need of Christ to save you..... and confess your belief and understanding that He died and rose again in your place..... he is the ransom for your sin.....but your faith in Him today.....

He will cleanse you..... forgive you..... and you will be able to testify of His power to deliver you and bring you into His kingdom which has no end.....

and for those of you who are Christian believers this morning, I want you to leave here with a full understanding that because you have put your faith and trust in Christ to save you, to redeem you,.....

this closing song is for those of you who are in Christ..... and it is the theme of the book of Colossians..... there is nothing in this world that compares with knowing Christ.....