

## Rescued from the dominion of darkness

Have we ever seen someone who has been rescued from a difficult situation? They are normally grateful to their rescuer and want to do what honours their rescuer.

Colossians 1: 1 – 14

### 1) The fruit of the Gospel (1: 1 – 8)

- An obvious faith
  - Their faith was obvious and Paul thanked God for it.
  - How obvious is your faith? Does it impact other people in a way that other people thank God for your faith?
- An obvious love for all of God's people
  - Their love for God's people was also obvious.
  - This is one of the signs of salvation
  - 1 John 3: 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death.
- An obvious hope
  - Hope is obvious because faith and love spring from it.
  - But hope itself springs from the true Gospel
  - True hope is only found in Jesus Christ who is the hope of glory.
  - He hasn't given us a vague hope – I hope so type of hope. He's given us a sure hope. And absolute hope. A hope that is stored up for us in heaven.
- An expansion of the Gospel
  - In the same way the Gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the world
  - In which way?
  - By believers living out obvious faith, love and hope.
- A faithful servant
  - Epaphras was such a man who lived out his faith and passed it on to the church at Colosse.
  - 2 Timothy 2: 2 And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.
  - We have all received the Gospel. Are we entrusting it to reliable people?
  - Are the reliable people who can be trusted to teach others?
  - Let the Gospel not stop with us!

### 2) The source of our strength (1: 9 – 12)

- Prayer
  - We all need the prayers of the saints
  - Are we strengthening others by constantly praying for them?
  - We're called to be faithful in prayer.
  - Romans 12: 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.
    - Other versions: constant in prayer; devoted to prayer; instant in prayer; persistent in prayer
- The knowledge of God's will
  - If we know God's will it will strengthen us to stay the course – to keep going
  - If we're on a journey and we aren't sure whether we're on the right road or not we drive cautiously and nervously not knowing whether we're lost or not
  - If we are confident that we know God's will for our lives we keep going even at times life doesn't seem to be working out as we think it should. We are confident that we are going to reach the right destination.

- In knowing His will we live in ways that please Him in every way
- We bear fruit in our lives that reflect His glory
- As we walk and live according to His will we continually grow in the knowledge of Him.
- His glorious might
  - Knowledge of His will isn't enough as we don't have the strength and ability within ourselves to live according to His will.
  - We are strengthened with all power according to His glorious might
  - God expects much from us then He gives us the grace and strength to live lives that are worthy of Him and carry out what He expects us to do.
  - Examples:
    - Love your enemies
    - Forgive those who hurt you
    - Turn the other cheek
- The knowledge of sharing in His inheritance
  - The knowledge that He has qualified us (we never qualified ourselves) to share in the inheritance of His holy people in the kingdom of light.
  - This knowledge gives us much to live for, to strive towards especially during tough times. When all seems dark around us we look to the inheritance waiting in the kingdom of light.
  - Have such a knowledge keeps us persevering through life.

### **3) Delivered from darkness to light (1: 13 – 14)**

- The dominion of darkness
  - We were subject and in bondage in the dominion of darkness.
  - We could not just walk out of it. We were slaves because of our sin.
  - John 8: 34 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.
  - We were held captive by Satan, the god of this world.
  - Our deceitful hearts thought that we were free and merely weak and would never acknowledge captivity
- The dominion of light
  - As the Israelites needed a deliverer from Egypt so we needed a deliverer
  - Jesus has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of light
  - We died to the dominion of darkness and were born again as citizens of the kingdom of light
- Redemption from the dominion of darkness
  - He redeemed us
  - To redeem something means to buy back something that originally belonged to you.
  - We were God's possession that fell into the dominion of darkness because of sin.
  - The price for us was death.
  - Jesus paid the redemption price with His own blood.
  - We now belong to Him and the kingdom of light
  - The dominion of darkness and death no longer has any power and authority over us
- The forgiveness of sins
  - All of our sins have been forgiven in the blood of Jesus
  - We have a new start. A new beginning
  - Satan will try tempt us but God has washed our guilt away.

In the kingdom of light we bear the fruit of the Gospel and are strengthened by His grace to attain the hope of our inheritance in Him.