



WEEK THREE

DAY THREE

Read Colossians 1:9-14. This is a super-rich passage of Scripture. It comes right after Paul's introduction to the letter. Here, he's telling the Colossians that he is praying for them. Verses 9-11 contain the "what" of his prayer. He's praying that they would know God and that this knowledge of God would impact their lives. In verse 12, Paul shifts from asking God for things on behalf of the Colossians to thanking God for what He has done. It's this part of Paul's prayer that we are going to focus on.

Look at verses 12-14. Paul uses some powerful language to paint the picture of what God has done for us in Christ. Paul says that like the father of a household, God allowed us, His children, to enjoy His inheritance. What is that inheritance? Paul talks about this a lot in his other writings, and from that, we know that he is talking about ALL that comes along with the salvation that comes through faith in Jesus: the eternal life with God we gain after this one, and the powerful purpose our life has on this earth. That is the inheritance Paul is talking about. But it's how Paul describes this salvation that we're going to focus on today.

Paul says that when we come to saving faith in Jesus, when we are redeemed from the death our sin rightfully earns us, God "delivers" us from the "domain of darkness" and "transfers" us to the "kingdom of light." This is incredible language to describe what happens to us when we are saved by faith in Jesus. Your challenge today is to consider what this practically means for you.

To make sure we're on the same page, when Paul says "the domain of darkness," he's simply talking about the life we live when we're slaves to sin. This is the life we are all stuck in outside of a saving faith relationship with Jesus. When Paul says, "the kingdom of his beloved Son," he is talking about our salvation and the life with God that earns for us.

OK, now, let's spend some time processing exactly what this means for you from a practical perspective.

Questions to Consider

1. How does Paul describe our relationship with Jesus that God makes possible through the power of the Gospel? (HINT: It's in vs. 14)
2. To be "redeemed" means to have your value "bought back." It means that something was a cast-off with no value, and then a transaction happens where there is a price paid to "buy" back the worth of the cast-off item. Think of a bunch of scrap metal that has been thrown out being bought by a recycling plant. The metal, worth nothing, has value because the recycling plant paid for it. Paul says that Jesus redeemed us. So think about this:
 - a. Can you think why we would have had "no value"? What state were we in that Jesus needed to redeem us?
 - b. What "transaction" occurred where Jesus "paid" for our value?
3. When you consider that your sin made you value-less and that Jesus, God Himself, gave His life on the cross to purchase your life, how does that make you feel about God and His great love for you?
4. You have value, not because of anything you have done, but because God created you and because Jesus purchased your life on the cross. Spend some time reflecting on this truth today and thanking God for it.