

Colossians 1:13–14

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,

14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

“What Happened to Me?”

Colossians 1:13 and other verses

We used to sing a chorus as children which goes like this:

Things are different now/ Something happened to me/When I gave my heart to Jesus;/Things are different now --/I was changed it must be/When I gave my heart to Him./Things I loved before are passed away/Things I love far more are come to stay/Things are different now/ Something happened that day/When I gave myself to Him.

This little chorus teaches us an important truth. When Jesus comes into our lives, there is a change. The Bible speaks clearly of a change taking place in a person’s life when that one is saved.

The infallible revelation of God shows us how there is a change when we come to know the Lord Jesus as our Savior. In our study we will explore three statements about what happens when we are saved. We will begin in Colossians 1:13, then we will move to John 5:24 and finally we will arrive at 2 Corinthians 5:17. Here then is the roadmap for our travels today.

What happened to us when God saved us?

I. We Were Delivered (Colossians 1:13)

II. We Have Moved (John 5:24)

III. We Have Been Changed (2 Corinthians 5:17)

I. We Were Delivered (Colossians 1:13)

“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,” Colossians 1:13

A. Paul wrote to the church in Colossi, He communicated with a church that he has never visited. The Colossian church probably was born out of the ministry of Epaphras who we meet in *v. 7. “As you also learned from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf.”* Paul’s purpose was to correct doctrinal error which crept into the church. Before he dealt with the problem, he took time to encourage the believers by praying for them.

1. Verse 9 begins Paul's prayer. He prays that they may be filled with the knowledge of the will of God in all wisdom and spiritual perception. It was vital they understand God's will and know how to carry out His will in their lives.

2. This is important so that we might walk in a manner that is worthy of the Lord (v. 10), well pleasing to Him, fruitful in every good work, and growing in the knowledge of our Lord (v. 11).

3. (v. 12) We also need to understand God's will so that we will always be giving thanks to the Father for the salvation that He provided for us.

B. What does this salvation look like? Paul wrote about it in our text in **v. 13. "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love."** He delivered us from the "authority" of darkness and transferred us into His Son's kingdom.

1. We may not consciously think about this, yet the Bible clearly states that before we were saved, we lived under the dominion of sin. Let me just give you a small sampling of verses to show you what I mean.

(1) ***Ephesians 5:8 "For you were formerly darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light."*** Notice, it is not that we were in the darkness, we were a part of the darkness itself.

(2) ***Acts 26:18 "To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power [exousia] of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me."*** This is Paul's summary of the goal of his ministry.

2. What happened to deliver us out of the dominion of darkness? Jesus came by and God did a miracle in our lives.

(1) ***2 Corinthians 4:6 "For God, who commanded, 'out of darkness, Light shine!' is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ."*** God made us see and we embraced Jesus and were transferred from the authority of darkness to the kingdom of His beloved Son.

(2) What does this mean in our lives? A kingdom is a place where a King rules and the people obey His leadership. We once were slaves to sin; we now are to be subjects of King Jesus. This leaves us with a very important question. "Who rules over you?"

II. We Have Moved (John 5:24)

A. We find a second statement describing what happened to us when God saved us in Jesus' discourse with the Jews in **John 5:24**. This phrase shows how dramatic this change should be in us. ***"Verily, verily, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who***

sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life."

B. Jesus said, "he who hears My word," that is the one who is listening to God's voice from the Word of God. We must never forget the importance of the Word of God to our salvation. Remember ***Romans 10:17 "So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."*** When the Word is mixed with faith in the Lord, salvation happens. This is how we see salvation from man's perspective.

C. But what really happens when we are saved? We are literally, "passed out of death into life." We are spiritually resurrected.

1. The word translated "passed" is a word meaning to move from one place to another, to change one's residence. When we moved from Enfield to Lansing, we did the action of this verb. When God saved us, He moved us from death into life.
2. Whatever else this statement means, it certainly indicates this transition is a dramatic one. We once resided in spiritual death, we now enjoy spiritual life. Resurrection is not a common experience in daily life.
3. The Apostle John describes this change in ***1 John 3:14 "We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love abides in death."*** One way that we can know that we have made this move is that we see this change in our lives

III. We Have Been Changed (2 Corinthians 5:17)

A. There is one last passage we need to see. ***2 Corinthians 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."*** We have been made a new creation. The word "new" in this verse is the word for "new" in quality. We are given a brand new life.

B. This does not mean that the consequences which arise from our sin are gone. We still may have to live with those consequences! This does mean the guilt of our sin is gone and we are living in a brand new relationship with the true and living God.

C. What is the main change reflected in our being made a new creation? ***2 Corinthians 5:15*** tells us. ***"And He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."***

Three statements describe what has happened to us since we were saved:

- (1) We have been delivered from the domain of darkness to the Kingdom of His beloved Son.
- (2) We have been moved from death into life.
- (3) We have been made a new creation.

Each of these statements ask us a very important question we need to answer. (1) Who rules over you, Sin or the Savior? (2) What difference does spiritual reality make in your life? (3) Who are you living for?

How we answer these questions show us a lot about whether these changes have happened in our lives!

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