

“Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins.” (Col 1:12-14 AV)

This is the third sermon in a series that I have entitled the Horror of Darkness. The first sermon was preached three weeks ago and described the nature of the darkness, the sin and the misery that men encounter everywhere they look. This misery is the, “God is willing to show His wrath.” A curse rests upon mankind because of the sin of Adam and Eve and the personal sins the we ourselves commit. Every man is a hardened lump of Adam’s clay and richly deserves the wrath of God. God endures the wickedness of man in the world because He has other things to do now, but you can be sure that He is willing to show His wrath and has done so throughout the history of the world. Men live their lives in frustration, and misery, in sickness and pain, in heartache and disappoint and descend into the grave an into hell at last, with weeping and gnashing of teeth, in hatred of the God they and their fathers have despised. They do not repent; they do not love one another; they do not love the Lord their God with all their hearts, souls mind and strength, and they do not think they need to repent and change their ways. This is man’s misery and this is the horror of the darkness in which they live. It is appointed unto man once to die and after this the judgment.

Two weeks ago I spoke on the Light that shines in the darkness. Titus 1:1-3. This light shines from eternity, a light that speaks of a faith that is according to God’s elect; a truth that is according to godliness; a hope of eternal life; promised of God before the world began, but is manifested in the preaching of the gospel by Jesus Christ and His apostles.

This light contends with the darkness of unbelief, of ignorance, of Adam’s hardened lumps, the darkness of idolatry and wickedness; the darkness of procrastination and delay, for today is the accepted time, today is the day of salvation.

Today, I want to speak of the Ownership of the Light. Not what owns the light; but what the light owns. The light is God’s light and cannot be owned by any but Him; but the light of God that shines in darkness takes ownership of men and these men are described in Scripture. I will try to develop three propositions from the text we read a moment ago in Colossians 1: “Whom the Light Owns; Who Owns them; What price was paid for them”

I. Whom the light owns. Three phrases describe them:

A. They are inheritors. You do not earn what you inherit.

1. They are sons of God and have received the spirit of adoption whereby they cry “Father.” The adoption is free and without strings.

2. I Peter 1: 1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith.

3. There are many more such places that speaks of the inheritance of the sons of God. This is because of the free adoption of God, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.

- B. They are delivered and translated. From the power of the darkness. The power of sin and darkness and the devil has been broken; the chains of unbelief, ignorance, hardness, rebellion, and misery has been broken by the power of the light. From one kingdom to another. If you are not a believer, it is because you are being held in some kind of bondage. Jesus will deliver you from this. First the guilt.
- C. They are Redeemed. This means they are purchased. This is a word that is used for buying a slave off the slave block, for the purpose of freeing from bondage. Illustration: Roman Soldiers and slave trade.

## II. Who owns these blessed people. The light does.

- A. The Triune God in general: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are indicated in the text, but specifically the dear Son of God, to whose kingdom they belong. Vs. 13
- B. Jesus Christ is the light of the world. Note:
  - Joh 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
  - Joh 12:35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.
  - Joh 12:46 I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.
- C. John 1:1-14. TURN TO AND READ.
- D. Read Question One of the HC. TURN TO AND READ.
- E. If you do not belong to Jesus Christ, then you are still in the horror of darkness and sin and misery.

## III. What was the price that was paid for ownership.

- A. The price of redemption.
  - 1. Guilt is the bondage that holds men in darkness.
    - a. See Hebrews 2: 14 ¶ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

- b. The same three things are in this text in Hebrews: inheritance; redemption; deliverance. It is the devil that holds men in bondage because of guilt. The guilt being forgiven, the bondage is broken.
2. These exact same ideas are in
3. Ephesians 1: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. 7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
- B. The result of redemption. You are not your own. I am not my own.
  1. My thoughts are not to be my own. My morals are not to be by own. My ways are not to be my own. My treasure is not to be by own. I have nothing of my own, but I belong to Jesus Christ.
  2. My inheritance is of the Light; my master is the Light; my hope is the Light; The blood of Christ sets me from the bondage of the devil that I may serve God without fear all the days of my life.
  3. He didn't purchase every man, but those chosen before the foundation of the world. The others are left in bondage, according to His own will. He doesn't pray as mediator for all men, but for those given to Him.

#### Application:

- A. The first is from Luke 2, the witness of Zacharias at the Birth of John the Baptist:
  - 67 ¶ And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,
  - 68 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,
  - 69 And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;
  - 70 As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:
  - 71 That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;
  - 72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;
  - 73 The oath which he swore to our father Abraham,
  - 74 That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear,
  - 75 In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.
- B. The second is from 1 Cor 6: 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

C. The third is from Titus 2:

11 ¶ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,  
12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

Only some are redeemed, purified, zealous. Taught by the grace of God.

May God bless you.