

## REASONS FOR GIVING THANKS, PT. 2; COL. 1:13 (Ed O'Leary)

### INTRODUCTION.

CURRENTLY IN OUR STUDY OF COLOSSIANS, ~ WE ARE LOOKING AT FOUR REASONS ~ for joyfully and continually ~ giving thanks to God the Father.

### TODAY, ~ WE'LL FOCUS ON THE SECOND REASON.

COLOSSIANS, ~ CHAPTER 1, ~ VERSE 13. \*Literal Trans.

▶▶ The Father ~ "has rescued us ~ from the domain of darkness ~ and transferred us ~ to the kingdom ~ of the son of his love."

### TWO NOTES RIGHT AT THE TOP HERE.

▶▶ 1<sup>st</sup>, ~ this rescue and transference was not sequential. ~~~ I.e., ~ first rescue, ~ then transference.

▷▷ It was concurrent. ~~~ The rescue and transference happened in one action.

▷▷ There was no in between here.

↳↳ The Father did not rescue us and set us free ~ 77

→→ with some promise of future entrance into the kingdom of his dear Son.

▷▷ A believer's transfer is complete. ~~ We are not hovering between two kingdoms.

↳↳ We have left the domain of darkness behind forever ~ 77

→→ and have been placed firmly & permanently ~ in the kingdom of Jesus. 11 1/11

▷▷ People who have undergone this kind of experience ~ have every reason to be profoundly grateful.

↳↳ And their lives should be marked ~ by this profound gratitude.

→→ We should live our lives every day ~ in an attitude ~ of gratitude.

▷▷ Furthermore, ~ profound humility ~ should result from the truth of this rescue and transfer.

↳↳ Because ~ we could not ~ and did not ~ rescue and transfer ourselves.

↳↳ Because of his grace, ~ mercy, ~ and the great love with which he loves us, ~ 77

→→ God the Father did the rescuing and transferring.

↳↳ To him be the glory. ~~ Great things he has done.

▶▶ And the 2<sup>nd</sup> note right at the top here.

▷▷ The past tense, ~ "has rescued," ~ "transferred," ~ points back to our conversion to Christ.

▷▷ IOW, ~ when we were saved, ~ God the Father ~ immediately and simultaneously ~ 77

↳↳ "rescued us from the domain of darkness ~ and transferred us to the kingdom of the son of his love."

THE FATHER ~ Lit. Trans. ~~ "HAS RESCUED US ~ FROM THE DOMAIN OF DARKNESS ~ and transferred us ~ to the kingdom of the son of his love."

▶▶ Grammatically, ~ the phrase ~ "of darkness" ~ can be viewed as being descriptive of "domain." 77 2/11

▶▶ We can read it as, ~ 77

▷▷ "God the Father has rescued us ~ from the domain ~ that is characterized by darkness ~ and transferred us ~ to the kingdom of the son of his love."

▶▶ Unbelievers live in a domain which is characterized by darkness ~ and ruled over by Satan.

▷▷ When we were unsaved, ~ we were a part of this domain.

## RECALL WHAT WE SAID LAST WEEK ABOUT DARKNESS.

▶▶ We noted that ~ in the Bible ~ darkness symbolizes evil and sin.

▷▷ It conveys moral evil, ~ unrighteousness, ~ falsehood, ~ error, ~ willful ignorance, ⇒  
deceitfulness, ~ and self-deception.

↪↪ It also signifies ~ corruption and death.

▶▶ Such things as ~ immorality, ~ anger, ~ strife, ~ vengeance, violence, ~ and oppression ~ thrive in such murk.

## FURTHERMORE, ~ THE DOMAIN OF DARKNESS ~ IS THE REALM OF opposition toward God.

▶▶ The unbeliever ~ is not only ~ without God in the world, ~ but he is also ~ against God.

▶▶ The domain of darkness ~ is a realm of moral rebellion, ~ insubordination, ~ and creaturely independence.

▶▶ John ~ 3: ~ 19-20, ~ And this is the judgment: ~ the light has come into the world, ~ and people loved the darkness rather than the light ~ because their works were evil. ~ For everyone who does wicked things ~ hates the light ~ and does not come to the light, ~ lest his works should be exposed.

▶▶ We were God's enemies while living in this domain. 11 3/11

BUT NOT ONLY DID WE LIVE IN THIS DOMAIN THAT IS characterized by darkness, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ in Eph. ~ 5: ~ 8, ~ Paul says that, ~ in our unsaved state, ~ we were ~ also characterized by darkness.

▶▶ Notice that Paul does not say, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ "you were in darkness" ~ or "you walked in darkness," ~ but rather "you were darkness."

▶▶ This was no accident.

▷▷ It is more than likely Paul intentionally chooses this language ~ ¶¶

↳↳ to show us our absolute sinfulness before Jesus saved us.

▶▶ We were not essentially good people ~ who had stumbled ~ or strayed off the path;

▷▷ We were ~ in our very nature ~ "dark."

▶▶ In our unsaved state we were spiritually dead.

▷▷ Morally depraved. ~~ spiritually ignorant. ~~ 100% sinful.

▷▷ Sinning was a way of life for us. ~~ We were following the standards of this world and Satan.

▷▷ We were enslaved to our sinful nature and its sinful desires ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and were carrying those sinful desires out daily.

▷▷ And most tragically of all, ~ we were subject to, ~ deserving of, ~ and destined for ~ God's wrath. ¶¶ 4/11

▶▶ Over in Eph. 2, ~ Paul said ~ that we were "separated from Christ," ⇒ that we had "no hope," ~ and that we were "without God in the world."

▷▷ "no hope."

↳↳ I.e., ~ we had no promise of a glorious future ⇒ and therefore no confident expectation of a glorious future.

↳↳ For the believer, ~ life leads to a greater, ~ awesome life.

↳↳ When we were unsaved, ~ life was leading ~ to despair, ~ discouragement, ~ 77

→→ depression, ~ uncertainty for the future, ~ a fear of death, ~ and death itself.

▷▷ "without God in the world." ~~~ Paul does not mean that we were necessarily atheists.

↳↳ word translated as ~ "without God" ~ refers to not having a relationship with the one true God.

↳↳ We were living in this world without a relationship with the one true God.

↳↳ Think through some of the things that meant. ⇒⇒ We did not have Him guiding us, ~ blessing us, ~ or helping us.

↳↳ We did not have His friendship. ~~~ We did not have Him to turn to in times of trouble.

↳↳ We did not have His word steering us through this sin-darkened world.

↳↳ How tragic.

→→ And how tragic for those who still do not have a relationship with the one true God. 77 5/11

▶▶ All this Paul sums up by saying ~ that the person we were prior to Jesus saving us ~ was "darkness."

▷▷ This word sums up quite well our absolute sinfulness before Jesus saved us.

NOW, ~ IF ALL OF THAT ISN'T BAD ENOUGH, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ the domain in which we lived ~ and were very much a part of, ~ is ruled by Satan.

▶▶ He is the god of this age ~ and exercises control and tyranny ⇒ over unsaved humanity and this present world.

▶▶ In 1 Jn. ~ 5: ~ 19b, ~ John writes, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ "and the whole world lies in the power of ~ [or, under the control of] ~ the evil one."

▷▷ The verb form for "lies" pictures the world as characteristically nonresistant to, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and passively dependent upon, ~ the power that grips the lost masses of humanity.

▷▷ Paul points this out.

↳↳ In 2 Tim., ~ he says that unbelievers ~ are held captive by Satan ~ to do his will.

→→ And in 2 Corinthians, ~ he says that Satan ~ blinds the minds of unbelievers.

▶▶ Scripture makes it quite clear, ~ over and over, ~ that this world in which we live is ruled by Satan.

▷▷ Three times ~ Jesus called Satan ~ "the ruler of this world." (John's gospel)

▷▷ Paul referred to Satan ~ as "the prince of the power of the air" ~ and "the god of this world." ¶¶ 6/11

▷▷ According to Luke's account of Jesus' temptation, ⇨ when Satan offered the kingdoms of the world to Jesus, ~ 77

↳↳ Satan claimed that they had been handed over to him

→→ Jesus, ~ of course, ~ refused Satan's offer, ~ but never disputed his claim.

↳↳ They were handed over to him ~ when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God.

NOW, ~ WE SPENT A GOOD AMOUNT OF TIME ON THAT.

▶▶ And I think it was important to do so. ~ Not to make us feel guilty ~ or to drag us down.

▶▶ Because ~ a solid understanding of our horrible condition prior to God rescuing us, ~ 77

▷▷ will help us come to a greater appreciation ~ 77

↳↳ for the great things he has done for us ~ and for how he has had mercy on us.

▶▶ Additionally, ~ it will also help ~ guard us ~ against spiritual pride, ~ 77

▷▷ when we see ~ that we were totally enslaved ~ to sin, ~ death, ~ Satan, ~ and our sin nature, ~ 77

↳↳ with no hope of ever freeing ourselves.

HUMANITY IS IN A DEPRESSING AND HORRIBLE SITUATION, ~ 77

▶▶ on the brink of eternal destruction, ~ and fully under the control ⇨ of sin, ~ death, ~ Satan, ~ and their sin nature.

▷▷ Not a pretty picture by any stretch of the imagination.

▶▶ But praise God, ~ it's not that way for those who are in Christ Jesus. ⇨ We are no longer in this depressing and horrible situation. 77/11

THE FATHER ~ Lit. Trans. ~ "HAS RESCUED US ~ FROM THE DOMAIN THAT IS characterized by darkness ~ and transferred us ~ to the kingdom of the son of his love."

▶▶ The word for "rescued" ~ means "rescued from danger."

▶▶ My . . . , ~ we were lost, ~ under the guilt and penalty of sin, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ unable to free ourselves from "the domain of darkness," ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and in danger of spending eternity apart from God.

→→ The sword of God's judgment ~ was hanging over our heads!

▶▶ Our rescue from all of this ~ was dependent upon a source other than ourselves.

▷▷ Enter God the Father.

↳↳ Through his beloved Son, ~ he intervened in our hopeless situation ~ ¶¶

→→ and took us out of the realm of darkness.

▶▶ Now, ~ we should look at "rescued" ~ as an all-encompassing term, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ taking into consideration the perfect righteousness of Christ ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and His substitutionary death on the cross, ~ ¶¶

→→ whereby ~ he satisfied divine justice ~ for all who would believe.

▷▷ Jesus made it possible for people to be rescued.

TO EXPAND ON THIS RESCUE FOR A MOMENT, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ the NT reveals that the domain of darkness ~ is not the only thing believers have been rescued from. ¶¶ 8/11



▶▶ Paul says ~ in [1 Thess. 1:10](#) ~ that Jesus ~ delivers us from the wrath to come.

▶▶ All believers look forward to Jesus' Second Coming ~ ¶¶

▷▷ when he will take us to be with him, ~ rescuing us from the terrors of the coming judgment.

▶▶ This refers to the time ~ when God will display his anger toward a sinful world ~ and destroy all evil.

▷▷ God's wrath is a certainty, ~ for he will not let sin continue unabated forever.

▶▶ Believers, ~ however, ~ can trust in their Savior who rescues them.

▶▶ All those who confess with their mouth ~ that Jesus is Lord, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ and believe in their heart that God raise Him from the dead, ~ ¶¶

→→ will be delivered from the wrath of God that is coming upon this sinful world!

THE FATHER ~ [Lit. Trans.](#) ~ "HAS RESCUED US ~ FROM THE DOMAIN THAT IS characterized by darkness ~ and transferred us ~ to the kingdom of the son of his love."

▶▶ As we said at the beginning, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ the Father did not rescue us and set us free ~ ¶¶

↪↪ with some promise of future entrance into the kingdom of his dear Son.

▷▷ A believer's transfer is complete. ~ We are not hovering between two kingdoms.

↪↪ We have left the domain of darkness behind forever ~ ¶¶

→→ and have been placed firmly and permanently ~ in the kingdom of Jesus. ¶¶ 9/11

▶▶ Recall from last time, ~ that we noted the inheritance that God the Father qualified us to inherit ~ ¶¶

▷▷ is the kingdom of Jesus, ~ which we will receive when he returns.

▶▶ Now, ~ it's important for us to understand the following.

▷▷ Although the full establishment of the kingdom, ~ and our reception of it, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ must await our Lord's return, ~ ¶¶

→→ believers have already been made citizens of it ~ ¶¶

↳↳ and presently enjoy some of its privileges.

▷▷ E.g., ~ total and permanent freedom from "the domain of darkness" and all it entails.

▶▶ We are not yet physically in the kingdom, ~ and the kingdom is not yet physically manifested.

▷▷ But positionally, ~ we are already solidly and permanently ~ in the kingdom of Jesus.

▶▶ It's similar to Ephesians, ~ chapter 2, ~ verse 6, ~ that says ~ ¶¶

▷▷ the Father has seated believers with Jesus in the heavenly places.

▷▷ Up to this point, ~ we have not physically sat down there.

↳↳ Nonetheless, ~ Paul says that we have been seated with Jesus there.

▷▷ Someday we will physically experience that. ~ Now it's what we call a position.

↳↳ It is a legal fact, ~ but it awaits its fulfillment. ¶¶ 10/11

▶▶It's the same when it comes to the kingdom of Jesus.

▷▷We are already solidly and permanently ~ in the kingdom of Jesus.

↪↪And all the physical aspects of that ~ will be established when Jesus returns.

### CONCLUSION.

THE FATHER ~ Lit. Trans. ~~ "HAS RESCUED US ~ FROM THE DOMAIN THAT IS characterized by darkness ~ and transferred us ~ to the kingdom of the son of his love."

▶▶Let us gratefully remember this great rescue ~ as we celebrate the Lord's Supper today.

LET'S PRAY . . . . 11/11