

“Rescued, Redeemed, Reconciled”
Colossians 1:13-14, 21-23

I. Be thankful that you’ve been rescued from the dominion of darkness.

- A. The dominion (or kingdom) of darkness consists of humanity ruled by evil spiritual beings.
 - 1. Satan (Acts 26:18)
 - 2. Other evil spiritual beings (Eph. 6:11-12; Rev. 12:9)
- B. The extent of this tyranny is total:

John 8:44a - You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father.

2 Timothy 2:26 - ...that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

II. Be thankful that you’ve been transferred to the Kingdom of Jesus.

- A. Our lives are now under His rule, not Satan’s.
- B. Our eternal destiny is determined by Him, not the Evil One.
- C. Our Father is now God the Father.
- D. We will one day live eternally in a world only influenced by Christ.

III. Be thankful that you’ve been redeemed.

- A. We’ve been redeemed from slavery to Satan.
- B. The price of our redemption, on account of the debt of our sin, was the shed blood of Christ.
- C. Christ’s cruel death brought us forgiveness of sins.
 - 1. His time of suffering was His own coming under the powers of darkness:

Luke 22:53 - Every day I was with you in the temple courts, and you did not lay a hand on me. But this is your hour—when darkness reigns.

- 2. He knew the terror of their power (not to mention Divine wrath).

Matthew 26:38 - Then He said to them, “My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death...”

- 3. All for our redemption!

Romans 3:24–25b - ²⁴and [Christians] are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.

IV. Be thankful that you've been reconciled to God.

A. We were once God's enemies, and deserving his wrath.

Romans 5:10a - For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son...

B. Christ's cross has brought us peace with God.

V. Be thankful that you will be perfected one day.

A. Though we continue to wrestle with sin in this life...

B. One day Christ will present us before the Father perfect in all respects.

1. As He already is...

2. Free from any hint of evil intent or action...