

The Hope of Glory:

An Exposition of Colossians

June 21, 2020

Sermon 3: Redemption & the Hope of Glory

Colossians 1:9-12

Opening Illustration: Getting stuck in a tree. Have you ever been rescued? Did you ever jump into the deep end of the pool before you were a strong enough swimmer? When I was little, I got it into my head that I wanted to climb this really tall (or so it seemed to me) tree in my grandparents' back yard. I remember ascending higher and higher with relative ease and getting near the top of this mammoth tree and feeling like I just scaled Mt. Everest or something. Then I looked down. Suddenly I was just paralyzed with fear. Why did I do this? How did I get up here so high? How do I get down? I was literally stuck. I remember my Dad coming to my rescue. He climbed the tree, put me on his back and climbed down. He rescued me.

I. Introduction

- A. There are two great questions that I would like to ask this morning as we go to the word of God.
 1. The first is, "What has God done for us?"
 2. The second is "How do I know that I have it?"
 3. I think that you would all agree that if God is real, holy, and just, and if sin is what God says it is, then the single most pressing question facing the human race is how we are going to handle this...what we are going to do with this.

II. What has God done for us?

A. He rescued us from the domain of darkness.

1. What does this mean?
 - a. The word "rescue" brings with it the idea that "the domain of darkness" is not a good thing.
 - 1) **ILL:** You never "rescue" somebody from an ice cream cone or from a lovely day at the beach. You only "rescue" somebody from something negative and dangerous.
 - b. The word "domain" (Greek *exousia*) is best understood as being under the authority of something. Perhaps a better way to think about this is the word "jurisdiction".

ILL: An American police officer has the authority (power) to arrest in the US, but if he is in Canada on vacation with his family, he can't pull people over for speeding. He is out of his jurisdiction.

Point: God finds us in an untenable position, under His just and holy wrath. Gloriously, however, He doesn't leave us there. He intercedes for us. He rescues us.

2. What does this tell us?
 - a. This tells us that we should tremble at the thought that we have been delivered from such a great danger.
 - b. This tells us that love would compel us to tell others that they are still under the jurisdiction of this darkness and that they are in great danger and need of rescue.
3. How does Paul describe this darkness?
 - a. **Alienation**—A heart-breaking separation from God.
 - 1) What does this mean?
 - i. That God was not even on your radar
 - ii. That you were in no way in fellowship with this wonderful God.
 - 2) Oh, believer, do you remember what your life was like when you were alienated from God?
 - b. **Hostility**
 - 1) What does this mean?
 - i. This means that we were not only without God in the world, we were hostile to Him.
 - ii. We were not on His side. We were on the other side, fighting against Him and His ways.

- 2) Oh, believer, do you remember the how you opposed the truth of the Lord when you were yet in your sins? What would you give to go back and correct yourself, not alone those who you influenced in your sin?
- 3) Oh, unbeliever who may be hearing this right now, you have no idea the love with which the God of the universe...the God of the Bible loves you! Lay down your hostility to Him, repent and be rescued from the domain of darkness!

c. Engaged in evil deeds

- 1) What does this mean?
 - i. This means that you were not only apart from God and hostile to God. You were also rebellious against God in your deeds! You were guilty of doing the very things that led Jesus to the cross!
 - ii. You were not only passive in your unbelief, you were active in your rebellion.
- 2) Oh believer, remember with shame the disobedience of your life before He saved you! Remember with great adoration the great wonder that He has rescued you!
- 3) Oh, unbeliever, you may think that your actions will have no consequences. With a sincere and broken heart, I tell you that they will!

B. He transferred us into the kingdom of His beloved Son.

1. What does this mean?
 - a. This means that He didn't simply break our bond with the domain of darkness, put placed in a different domain...a different jurisdiction under which we live and serve.

ILL: When you are released from prison, they don't just open the doors and say, "See ya!" They send you to a half-way house or they at least make sure that you have somewhere to go and something to do. Similarly, when we are freed from the domain of darkness, we are not simply abandoned in our new freedom. Instead, we are delivered into the kingdom of God's Son.

- b. You went from alienated sinners to now being loyal subjects.
2. By what means did he accomplish this?
 - a. See v. 20, "the blood of His cross..."
 - b. See v. 22, "He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death."
 - c. **2 Corinthians 5:21** He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
3. What is the result of His sacrificial death?
 - a. We will be considered holy.
 - b. We will be considered blameless.
 - c. We will be considered beyond reproach.

III. How do I know that this redemption is mine? Colossians 1:23

A. The importance of this question.

1. If I am liable to lose this redemption at any moment, I need to know that. If there is something that I must do in order to preserve my salvation, then it becomes supremely important to know what that is so that I might do that.
2. If we are not careful, we argue ourselves out of assurance and cause great damage to our souls.

ILL: When I was first saved, I was just so worried that I did it wrong! I would pray that God would save me over and over again, just in case the first time wasn't genuine enough. Torture!! We can't stay there. We need to move beyond that to assurance.

B. IF? What do you mean, IF?

1. Little words like "if" can really drive you insane. This is especially the case in our passage today.
 - a. We have to be careful to avoid over-analysis of our lives and under-analysis of our lives.

2. Not everyone who professes to be a Christian is actually a Christian.
 - a. **Matthew 7:21-23** seems to bear this out very clearly. Some who think that they are just fine will hear from the Lord, “depart from me, for I NEVER knew you.”
 - b. Because of this, we have to be very careful not to extend biblical promises to people other than those to whom the promises were given and are applicable.
 - c. So, how can you tell the difference?
 - 1) Obviously, this is a subject much bigger than we can handle in the exposition of one verse in 20 minutes or so. However, we are faced with this, so we should shed some light on this issue.
3. The Bible is clear that nobody can snatch you out of God’s hand.
 - a. **John 10:27-29** "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸ and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹ "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand.

"Assurance grows by repeated conflict, by our repeated experimental proof of the Lord's power and goodness to save; when we have been brought very low and helped, sorely wounded and healed, cast down and raised again, have given up all hope, and been suddenly snatched from danger and placed in safety, and when these things have been repeated to us and in us a thousand times over, we begin to learn to trust simply to the word and power of God, beyond and against appearances; and this trust, when habitual and strong, bears the name of assurance; --for even assurance has degrees."

John Newton, Works 2:33-34

C. Do we have to maintain our salvation in our own strength? No.

1. God keeps us from stumbling.
 - a. **Jude 24** Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,
2. God protects us by the power of faith.
 - a. **1 Peter 1:3-9** (especially note v. 5)
3. God cannot deny Himself.
 - a. **2 Timothy 2:11-13** (especially v. 13)
4. God will not withhold anything necessary from us.
 - a. **Romans 8:32** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?
 - b. **Point:** If the Father gave His son for us, is there anything else that will prove too expensive?

D. What about those who walk away?

1. They walk away temporarily and are chastened by God (so that they return).
 - a. **Hebrews 12:4-11**
2. They reveal themselves never to have been genuinely saved in the first place.
 - a. **1 John 2:19** They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

IV. To what does this call us?

A. Reflection—Think about these things!

1. Reflect upon your natural state—alienation, hostility and evil deeds. Remember the misery and loneliness of unbelief.
2. Reflect upon what you naturally deserve—O, the righteous displeasure and judicial wrath of God!
3. Reflect upon the extents to which the God of the Universe would go to redeem you!
4. Reflect upon the difference your walk with Christ has made in your life!

a. **I Corinthians 6:9-11** Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals,¹⁰ nor thieves, nor *the* covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

B. Response—*Don't JUST think about these things!*

1. Repent of your sinful ways, thoughts, feelings and dispositions!
2. Respond to His marvelous grace in offering you a redemption, forgiveness of sins!

C. Reception—*Apply these things to your heart!*

1. **Romans 10:13** for "WHOEVER WILL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."