

Colossians 1:13-23

The glory and majesty of Christ

The glory and majesty of Christ is highlighted and magnified in these verses with more clarity and beauty than anywhere else in Scripture. It is no accident that after (13-14) and before (21-23) the deity and power of Christ is described, a description of the work of Christ in redemption is given.

The last section describes the actions of the Father, “who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light” (1:12). All persons in the Trinity are involved in our salvation.

1:13-14 – According to these verses, how were we able to share in this inheritance? What is this inheritance? How were we able to dwell in His Light?

Jesus embarked in the greatest rescue mission of all-time. It is great because of the stakes involved. It is easy to forget how black the darkness truly is without Jesus. Our previous situation, before Christ, is described as living in “the domain of darkness.” How would it impact our minds and hearts if we could see and remember the grave situation we were in before Christ?

How would our motivations, perceptions, and actions change if we could see our unsaved family members, friends, and neighbors as detained and enslaved in “the domain of darkness”?

What was necessary for us to be “transferred”?

What does it mean to be “redeemed”? What was the cost that needed to be paid to earn our freedom?

“Because we as sinners are in bondage to sin and to Satan, we need someone to provide redemption and thereby “redeem” us out of that bondage. When we speak of redemption, the idea of “ransom” comes into view. A ransom is the price paid to redeem someone from bondage or captivity. Jesus said of himself, “For the Son of man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45) (Grudem, 580).

1:15-17 – Write down all of the descriptions given of Christ:

How should these realities affect the way you view your world and your life? How does this influence your fears and anxieties?

Read Psalm 96 – How does creation respond to its Maker? As you read this Psalm, think of Jesus receiving this praise and glory. How does the reality of Jesus being the creator, sustainer, and fulfiller of all things impact your heart as you think about worshipping Him this coming Sunday morning?

1:18 – Who ultimately leads our church? According to 1:18, why does He deserve this position and title?

1:19-20 – How does the shedding of Christ's blood lead to reconciliation and peace?

Why did Jesus need to die? Could He have just been punished without the need for death?

What does it tell us about the nature and character of the Father that the Son had to die (and that it pleased the Father to reconcile all things to Himself through this death) (Isaiah 53:10)?

1:21-23 – The Colossians are beneficiaries of this reconciliation. How were they described before Christ?

How would you describe yourself before Christ? In what manner does sin continue to influence and reside within the Christian?

Jesus Himself presents you to the Father. How is the believer described in this presentation (1:22)? What about the ongoing sin in our life?

Explain the difference between our positional holiness before the Father and how we progressively become more holy throughout life? How would we explain this to a new believer?

Can the Christian claim any credit for this new-found holiness and blamelessness (Eph 2:8-9)?

What happens when we begin to question our acceptance and holiness before the Father? In what ways can guilt, shame, and fear erode our faith in Christ's work and our communion with Him?