

THE GREAT TRANSFER

A 5-Day Devotional from Colossians 1:13–14

Day 1 — Delivered from Darkness

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 1:13, Ephesians 2:1–5, 1 John 5:19, 2 Corinthians 4:4

Darkness is not just something the Bible uses as a metaphor for sadness or confusion. Scripture speaks of darkness as a real domain—a realm with authority, influence, and control. Paul says we were not merely struggling in the dark; we were *under* it. We were trapped in a world ruled by sin, deception, and death, unable to free ourselves.

That's why the language Paul uses in Colossians 1:13 matters so much. He doesn't say God offered us a way out. He doesn't say God helped us escape. He says God *delivered* us. That word implies force, intervention, and rescue. And notice the tense—*He has delivered us*. Not “He will,” not “He might,” but *He has*. Our salvation is not hanging in the balance or waiting to be secured by better obedience. God already acted.

This is humbling, but it's also deeply comforting. Dead people don't rescue themselves. Prisoners don't overpower their captors. If God had not intervened, we would still be stuck in darkness—religious or irreligious, moral or immoral, but still lost. Salvation begins not with our decision, but with God's decisive action.

That truth changes how we see ourselves. It dismantles pride and replaces it with gratitude. And it reshapes how we face temptation and failure. When we stumble, we don't panic as if everything depends on us. We remember that our rescue didn't start with us—and it won't end with us either.

Reflection Questions

1. How does thinking of salvation as rescue—not self-improvement—change how you view your faith?
2. Where are you tempted to believe you need to “finish” what God has already done?
3. How does the past-tense nature of your deliverance affect your assurance?

Practical Application

Today, thank God specifically for rescuing you when you could not rescue yourself. Name areas where you're tempted to rely on your effort instead of His finished work.

Prayer

Father, thank You for delivering me from darkness when I was unable to save myself. Help me rest in what You have already done and walk in grateful dependence on Your grace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 2 — Transferred into Christ’s Kingdom

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 1:13, John 10:28, Romans 14:17, Hebrews 6:5

Salvation doesn’t stop with deliverance. God didn’t pull us out of darkness only to leave us standing in the rubble. Paul says God *transferred* us into the kingdom of His beloved Son. That word speaks of relocation—being moved from one realm, under one ruler, into another. Christianity is not just forgiveness; it’s a change of address.

This kingdom belongs to the Son the Father loves. That detail matters. The same love the Father has for His Son now defines how He relates to us in Christ. Our place in the kingdom is not temporary or conditional. Jesus says plainly that no one can snatch His people out of His hand. Our security doesn’t rest in how tightly we cling to Him, but in how securely He holds us.

Living in Christ’s kingdom also reshapes our daily lives. Obedience is no longer about earning acceptance; it’s about living consistently with where we now belong. We don’t obey to stay in the kingdom—we obey because we’re already there. Grace doesn’t make obedience unnecessary; it makes it possible and fitting.

Even now, in a broken world, we taste the life of the age to come—righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. We belong somewhere new, even while we wait for the fullness to be revealed.

Reflection Questions

1. How does knowing you belong to Christ’s kingdom affect how you face fear or uncertainty?
2. Where do you struggle to live like a citizen of Christ’s kingdom?
3. How does assurance free you to obey with joy instead of pressure?

Practical Application

Identify one area of life where you need to live more consciously as a citizen of Christ’s kingdom—at work, at home, or in your thought life.

Prayer

Father, thank You for transferring me into the kingdom of Your beloved Son. Teach me to live as one who belongs to Him, with joy, peace, and confidence in Your grace. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 3 — Redeemed by the Blood of Christ

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 1:14, Colossians 2:13–15, Exodus 12:13, Mark 10:45

Redemption always involves a price. In Scripture, God rescues His people not only by power, but by payment. The Exodus makes this clear: Israel was delivered by mighty acts *and* by the blood of the Passover lamb. Paul says our salvation follows the same pattern.

Sin created a debt before God's justice—one we could never repay. That debt gave sin and Satan real leverage over us. But at the cross, Jesus did what we could not do. He offered His own life as a ransom, fully satisfying God's justice by paying our debt in full. When the debt was canceled, the accuser lost his claim.

Some prefer to talk about Christ's victory over evil without talking about the cross as substitution. But Scripture won't let us separate the two. Jesus becomes Victor because He was first the Substitute. The cross was not Satan's triumph over Christ—it was Christ's triumph over Satan.

This matters for your conscience. Your freedom rests not on your resolve, but on Christ's finished work. Redemption is not theoretical—it was purchased at great cost, and it is secure.

Reflection Questions

1. How does understanding the cost of your redemption shape your gratitude?
2. Why is it important that Jesus dealt with guilt, not just power?
3. Where are you tempted to minimize sin instead of trusting Christ's payment?

Practical Application

Take time today to reflect on the cross. Thank Christ specifically for bearing your guilt and canceling your debt.

Prayer

Father, thank You for redeeming me through the precious blood of Your Son. Help me never take lightly the cost of my salvation or doubt the sufficiency of Christ's sacrifice. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 4 — Forgiven: Fully and Forever

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 1:14, Colossians 2:13, Psalm 103:12, Hebrews 8:12, 1 John 1:7

Forgiveness sounds simple until you stop and think about what it actually means. Does God really forgive *all* our sins? The ones we regret most? The ones we still feel ashamed of? Scripture answers without hesitation—yes.

Paul says God has forgiven us *all* our trespasses. Not most. Not some. All. God doesn't forgive the way we do—half-heartedly, with memory and resentment lingering in the background. He promises to remember our sins no more. He removes them as far as the east is from the west. They are gone.

This forgiveness isn't God pretending sin didn't happen. It's God declaring that justice has already been satisfied. The blood of Jesus cleanses us from *all* sin. There is no hidden clause, no fine print, no future reckoning waiting to undo what Christ has accomplished.

That's why forgiveness sits at the heart of Christian joy. Guilt no longer defines us. Shame no longer has the final word. We are free to live honestly before God, not hiding, not pretending, but resting in His mercy.

Reflection Questions

1. Are there sins you believe God forgives in theory but struggle to believe He has forgiven in practice?
2. How does full forgiveness change the way you approach God?
3. What would it look like to live today as someone truly forgiven?

Practical Application

Confess any lingering guilt to God and deliberately remind yourself of His promises of forgiveness in Christ.

Prayer

Father, thank You for forgiving all my sins through Christ. Help me live in the freedom You have given, no longer defined by guilt or shame. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 5 — In Whom We Have

Scripture Reading:

Colossians 1:14, Colossians 3:1–4, Romans 8:1, John 15:4–5

Paul ends this passage with four words that carry enormous weight: “*in whom we have*.” Redemption and forgiveness are not abstract gifts floating in the air. They are found in a Person. Salvation is located in Christ Himself.

This is the heart of the gospel. God doesn’t simply forgive sins and send us on our way. He unites us to His Son. And once we are in Christ, everything that belongs to Him belongs to us—His righteousness, His life, His victory, His inheritance. Our assurance rests not in our consistency, but in our union with Him.

Here’s what Paul wants you to know: if you are in Christ, your past is dealt with, your present is secure, and your future is settled. That truth steadies us when life feels uncertain, and faith feels fragile.

And if you are not yet in Christ, this passage is an invitation. You cannot rescue yourself, outrun your guilt, or pay your debt. But Christ has already done everything required. The gospel doesn’t call you to fix yourself—it calls you to come.

Reflection Questions

1. How does union with Christ shape your understanding of assurance?
2. Where are you tempted to look for security apart from Christ?
3. If you are not in Christ, what is keeping you from trusting Him today?

Practical Application

Rest today in your union with Christ. Let your identity in Him shape how you think, pray, and live.

Prayer

Father, thank You that my salvation is found in Christ alone. Help me live in Him, rest in Him, and trust Him completely. In Jesus’ name, Amen.