

## Colossians – Week 2 – Out of Darkness – Bible Study Helps

Title: Out of Darkness: Our Glorious Inheritance in Christ

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the profound blessings believers have in Jesus Christ, focusing on three main aspects: our eternal inheritance, our deliverance from the power of darkness, and our redemption through Christ's blood. The sermon emphasizes the importance of understanding and living in light of these truths, encouraging believers to walk worthy of their calling and to be vigilant in spiritual warfare. It contrasts the temporary nature of earthly possessions with the eternal riches found in Christ, urging Christians to live with an eternal perspective and to be thankful for their spiritual blessings.

Key Points:

- God has made believers partakers of an eternal inheritance in Christ
- Christians have been delivered from the power of darkness
- Believers have been translated into the kingdom of God's Son
- Redemption and forgiveness come through Christ's blood
- The importance of living in light of our spiritual blessings
- Warnings against ecumenicalism and compromising biblical truth
- The need for vigilance in spiritual warfare

Scripture Reference:

- Colossians 1:12-14 (primary text)
- Ephesians 1 and 2
- Romans 8:12-17
- 1 Peter 1:3-4
- 2 Corinthians 4:1-4

Stories:

- An analogy of a prisoner being freed from a cell is used to illustrate spiritual freedom
- Reference to C.S. Lewis's "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" to illustrate Christ's sacrifice
- A current events story about a memorial service is used to warn against ecumenicalism

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### Discipleship and Small Group Guide: Out of Darkness

#### Key Takeaways:

1. We have a glorious inheritance in Christ
2. God has delivered us from the power of darkness
3. We've been translated into the kingdom of God's Son
4. We have redemption and forgiveness through Christ's blood

#### Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentioned three glorious blessings found in Jesus Christ: our inheritance, our deliverance, and our redemption. Which of these resonates most with you right now and why?
2. How does understanding our spiritual inheritance in Christ change the way we view our earthly possessions and pursuits?
3. The sermon described being "delivered from the power of darkness." Can you share an example of how you've experienced this deliverance in your own life?
4. What does it mean practically to live as someone who has been "translated into the kingdom of His dear Son"?
5. The sermon warned about the dangers of ecumenicalism and compromising biblical truth. How can we balance being loving towards others while standing firm in our convictions?
6. How does the reality of our redemption and forgiveness through Christ's blood impact how we deal with guilt, shame, or past mistakes?

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### Practical Applications:

1. Take time this week to meditate on Colossians 1:12-14. Write down specific ways you can express gratitude for your inheritance, deliverance, and redemption in Christ.
2. Identify an area of your life where you might be "dabbling" in old sinful patterns. Make a plan to resist temptation and live in the freedom Christ has given you.
3. Practice sharing your testimony of deliverance with someone this week, focusing on how Christ has freed you from the power of darkness.
4. Choose one way you can practically demonstrate your allegiance to Christ's kingdom this week (e.g., serving others, resisting worldly values, sharing the gospel).
5. If you struggle with guilt over past sins, write out key verses about God's forgiveness and redemption. Memorize one to combat lies from the enemy.

### Closing Prayer:

Thank God for the inheritance, deliverance, and redemption we have in Christ. Ask for His help to live in light of these truths and to share them with others who are still in darkness.

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### Discipleship Questions

How does understanding our spiritual inheritance in Christ impact our daily lives and priorities?

In what ways have you experienced deliverance from the 'power of darkness' in your own life, and how has that changed you?

How can we remain vigilant against spiritual warfare while also living in the joy and freedom of Christ's kingdom?

What are some practical ways we can live out our identity as 'children of light' in a world that often seems dark?

How does the concept of being 'translated' into God's kingdom challenge our allegiances and loyalties in this world?

In what ways might we be tempted to return to old patterns of sin, even after experiencing redemption, and how can we resist those temptations?

How does understanding the cost of our redemption (Christ's blood) affect our gratitude and commitment to God?

What are some challenges we face in fully embracing and living in the forgiveness that Christ offers?

How can we balance being engaged in cultural and political issues while maintaining our primary focus on the gospel and saving souls?

In what ways can remembering our spiritual blessings in Christ lead us to greater worship and service to Him?

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Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide

### **Day 1: Our Glorious Inheritance in Christ**

Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Devotional: As we read about our spiritual blessings in Christ, let's reflect on the incredible inheritance we have as God's children. Just as the sermon highlighted, we have been adopted into God's family and made joint-heirs with Christ. This inheritance is not based on our merit, but on God's grace and love. Today, take time to thank God for specific blessings in your life that reflect His goodness. How does knowing you have an eternal inheritance change your perspective on earthly challenges? Consider ways you can live today that reflect your status as a child of the King.

### **Day 2: Delivered from Darkness**

Reading: Colossians 1:13-14

Devotional: Today's passage reminds us of our deliverance from the power of darkness. Reflect on your life before Christ and the bondage of sin you experienced. Now, consider the freedom you have in Christ. The sermon emphasized that we no longer have to sin - we have been made free. What areas of your life still feel bound by darkness? Bring these to God in prayer, asking for His power to live in the light. How can you actively choose to walk in the light today? Remember, you have been translated into the kingdom of God's beloved Son. Live as a citizen of that kingdom today.

### **Day 3: The Price of Our Redemption**

Reading: 1 Peter 1:18-21

Devotional: Our redemption came at a great cost - the precious blood of Christ. As you read today's passage, meditate on the sacrifice Jesus made for you. The sermon reminded us that our salvation wasn't cheap; it cost Jesus everything. How does this impact your view of sin? Of God's love for you? Take time to express your gratitude to God for His redemption. Consider how you can live today in a way that honors the price paid for your freedom. Is there an area of your life you need to surrender more fully to Christ in light of His sacrifice?

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### **Day 4: Forgiveness and Freedom**

Reading: Psalm 103:8-14

Devotional: Today we focus on the forgiveness we have in Christ. The sermon emphasized that when God forgives, He removes our sins as far as the east is from the west. Reflect on the weight of guilt and shame that Jesus has lifted from you. Are there sins you struggle to believe are truly forgiven? Bring these to God, trusting in His complete forgiveness through Christ. How can you extend this same forgiveness to others in your life? Ask God to help you live in the freedom of His forgiveness today, not returning to old patterns of guilt and shame.

### **Day 5: Living as Children of Light**

Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Devotional: We conclude our week by focusing on our new identity as children of light. The sermon reminded us that we have been translated into God's kingdom and should live accordingly. As you read today's passage, consider what it means to "walk as children of light" in your daily life. What fruits of light (goodness, righteousness, and truth) do you see growing in your life? Where do you need to more intentionally pursue these? Pray for God's help to expose any remaining darkness in your life and to shine His light through you to others. How can you be a beacon of God's light in your sphere of influence today?