

Rescued and Transferred

Joe Slater

I wonder if we comprehend and appreciate the magnitude of what occurs upon conversion to Christ. Paul understood! As a former fanatical hater of Jesus and persecutor of the church, Paul knew what it was to be lost. And that undoubtedly sharpened his appreciation for what it is to be saved.

Paul told the Colossians that God *“has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love”* (Colossians 1:13). What a rich statement!

“Deliver” does not refer to anything like the mail carrier “delivering” a package to you. Rather, it carries the flavor of rescue from some terrible plight. Jesus taught His disciples to pray, *“deliver us from the evil (one)”* (Matthew 6:13). If Satan doesn’t already have a person in his clutches, he certainly desires it. In either case, we need a divine act of rescue! That’s what happened when the Colossians came to Christ, and it still happens when one obeys the gospel today.

As He rescued us from Satan’s domain of darkness, God conveyed us into His beloved Son’s kingdom. To convey something is to transfer it – to remove it from one place to another. In this case, that other place is the kingdom of Christ. Satan is *“the prince of this world”* (John 12:31), but God rescued us from his realm of authority. Now we happily submit to the authority of Jesus as citizens of His spiritual kingdom, which is His church.

When brave fire fighters rescue someone from an inferno, we call them heroes – as well we should! How much more should we extol our courageous Christ Who has rescued us *“from the wrath to come”* (1 Thessalonians 1:10)?

Take My Hand!

The other day my sister took my niece to an antique store. She gave her strict instructions not to touch anything. Well, of course, it didn’t take long before the little girl was touching everything. So, my sister told her that since she could not mind, she would have to hold her hand until they left the store.

They went through the store, hand in hand, and my niece was behaving much better. My sister started to look at some clocks and, without thinking, let go of her daughter’s hand. My niece, noticing the newly-found freedom, began to insist, “Take my hand! Take my hand! I’m not ready to mind yet!”

This is just a funny story, but how much trouble do we find ourselves in when we let go of our Heavenly Father’s hand? Think about it, though. When it comes to our spiritual maturity and staying out of trouble, we are often no better than a three-year-old.

I think that is part of the reason God wants us to meet together and to spend time in prayer and study of His word. When you have a strong relationship with God, you are more likely to stay out of trouble. So, as Christians, we need to be holding on to our Heavenly Father’s hand. If we ever notice that we have let go, we need to hit our knees and ask Him to grab on again.

--Luke Bower (Abilene, TX) via *Old Paths*

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All progress is change.

Not all change is progress.

Most people will strongly agree with one of those two statements. Whichever one makes you say “amen,” you should consciously work on internalizing the other. Both are equally true. (Cecil May, Jr., via *Preacher Talk*)

What Does My Religion Do For Me?

Have you ever given any thought to the question, “What does my religion do for me?” There are probably millions of people who profess to follow Christ, but have given little or no thought to what “following Christ” does for them. As Christians, we should be different from the rest of the religious world. We, then, should give some thought to what following Christ does for us.

Someone has said, “Religion can be a depressing influence in life.” How so? A little religion, like a little knowledge, can be a dangerous thing! The Bible teaches “the more our knowledge, the greater our responsibility.” And some people have just enough religion to make themselves miserable! They have just enough faith in God and His word, just enough knowledge of grace and moral law, and just enough knowledge of life after death, that they can’t live in sin and be happy!

They have not yet learned the real joy of being a Christian or having found a friend in Jesus, someone on whom they may cast their burdens, or from whom they can find strength for daily living. Such a religion is foreign to the teaching of Jesus. Take the time to read John 15:11, and apply it to your own life. Is there joy in your life? If not, why not? Joy in life is an indication of a spiritual victory! Do we not feel for others when they express an inward gloom over ‘following Jesus’? Or about His church? Have they not made a burden of their religion? Have we? If so, perhaps we need to take a good look at ourselves and ask, “Am I following Jesus?”

Here are some questions for us about what our religion might be doing for us (or not). Do we sincerely want to do the Lord’s will, regardless of what it might be? Do we study the Bible only to prove ourselves correct in some view? Do we pray only when it seems necessary? These are only a few, and you can probably come with more and better ones. These are a start.

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