

Colossians 1:13-14 -- “Translated”

The last several Sunday mornings, I have shared with you messages taken from the **Letter to the Colossians**. Two weeks ago, the message was that of “Epaphras, the Farmer.” We know from Acts that Paul planted the seed in the hearts of the people of the church at Colossae. Epaphras has tended it, and nurtured it, and a harvest of good works is the result. Last week, in our bilingual service, I shared Paul’s prayer for the Colossians:

They should, he prays:

1. **Live a life worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way**
2. **Bear fruit in every good work**
3. **Grow in the knowledge of God**
4. **Be strengthened with all power according to His glorious might**
5. **Have great endurance**
6. **Learn patience**
7. **Joyfully give thanks to the Lord for what He had done and continues to do for them**

What is the main thing He has done? The first thing He has done is that He qualified them (and us) to share in the inheritance of His holy people in the kingdom of light. Then in **Colossians 1:13-14**, Paul says this to the church at Colossae:

“... He (God) has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”

Some translations, strangely enough, use the word “**translated**” to describe the movement from the “**dominion of darkness**” into Christ’s “**kingdom**.” As with scripture, when going from Greek or Hebrew to English, we have been changed from one state to another. The word itself in the Greek is the same one that would describe what a victorious army would often do to the vanquished. The population of the defeated country would be moved from their home to the kingdom that defeated them. (Much the same as the Assyrians did to Israel and the Babylonians did to the people of Judah. This transferal moves us from:

1. **Darkness (evil) to light (righteousness)**
2. **Slavery (to sin) to freedom (in Christ Jesus—not a slave to sin any longer)**
3. **Condemnation (which we deserve) to forgiveness (which God is so anxious to give)**
4. **The power of Satan (that encourages us to sin) to the power of God (with which we can resist Satan’s wiles)**

It is this change that qualifies us to share in our inheritance. We are to joyfully give thanks to God for the changes He has brought about in us.

---Johnny Stephens