Sunday, March 8, 2020—Colossians 1:13 Delivered from the Power of Darkness

**Introduction**

* Last week we studied Colossians 1:12 where we saw that God the Father:
  + “. . . hath [past tense] made us meet [fitting, suitable, and qualified] to be partakers [one who has or takes a part, share or portion in common with others; a sharer; a participator] of the in heritance of the saints in light.”
* Ephesians 1:18-23—not only does each individual member of the body of Christ received an inheritance but God is going to use the body of Christ to inherit and repossess the heavenly places for his glory. It is through the church the body of Christ i.e., all of the saints of this dispensation that God the Father is going to make his Son the Lord Jesus Christ the head over all things.
* Colossians 1:12—God the Father has made us “meet” and qualified us so that he can use us for his glory in the heavenly places. We also need to give thanks to the Father for not only saving us from eternal punishment and separation from Him but for seeing fit to use of for glory throughout all eternity.
* This morning as we move on into verse 13 and possibly 14, we are moving into some dense material. Therefore, I want to say at the outset that it might take us a couple weeks to unpack and thoroughly understand these verses.

**Colossians 1:13**

* **Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:**
* **Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness**— the word “who” at the beginning of verse 13 is still referring to God the Father from verse 12. So not only has God the Father “made us meet to partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light,” but He has also “delivered us from the power of darkness.”
* Notice once again the use of the past tense “hath delivered” like we saw in verse 12. Paul is talking about a completed past transaction i.e., a once and for-all-time action performed by God the Father upon believers. Consequently, this deliverance can never be undone.
* The English word “delivered” is the past tense form of “deliver” carries the following meanings, according to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language*:
  + “Freed; released; transferred or transmitted; passed from one to another; committed; yielded; surrendered; rescued; uttered; pronounced.”
* This word “delivered” is never used in the New Testament to describe someone delivering or rescuing themselves out of a given predicament or circumstance.
  + II Corinthians 8-10
  + I Thessalonians 1:10
  + II Thessalonians 3:2
  + II Timothy 4:17
* Colossians 1:13—what are we delivered from? “The Power of Darkness”
* The Greek word translated “power” in this verse is also translated “authority” 29 other times in the New Testament. There is undeniable relationship between power and authority, one has authority because he has power and one has power because he has authority.
  + Matthew 7:29
  + Mark 2:10
  + Mark 3:15
  + Luke 9:1
* Colossians 1:13—the implication is clear, God “hath delivered us” from the “power” and authority of “darkness.” *Strong’s Concordance* defines the Greek word translated “darkness” here as “shadiness, i.e. obscurity (literally or figuratively).” The word is indicative of a situation where there is no light but utter darkness and obscurity. God the Father “delivered” us from the “power of darkness” i.e., from the power and authority of the one characterized as “darkness.”
  + Luke 22:53—who is this referring two? Satan.
    - Luke 22:3—who entered Judas to betray Jesus to the chief priests? Satan
  + John 14:30—Jesus knew that he was heading for confrontation with the God of this world.
  + Acts 26:18—Paul speaks about being sent to the Gentiles to “turn them form darkness to light” and “from the power of Satan unto God.”
  + Ephesians 2:2—Paul talks about the “prince the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience,” which obviously refers to Satan.
* Colossians 1:13—is literally talking about God the Father reaching into Satan’s domain and delivering men, women, and children from the “power” and authority of the adversary. God the Father has delivered us form “outer darkness,” He has rescued us from obscurity, He has “made us meet to be partakes of the inheritance of the saints in light.”
* How was this accomplished? Through the gospel of our salvation.
  + II Corinthians 4:3-6—the gospel of Christ as the power of God unto salvation has the capacity to shine the light of truth into the darkened understanding of a lost man and thereby provide him with an opportunity to be saved. Not merely to save them from eternal punishment but to deliver them “from the power of darkness.”
* **and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son**—not only have we been “delivered from the power of darkness” (past tense) but the Father “hath translated us” (past tense) “into the kingdom of his dear son.”
* According to Noah Webster, the English word “translated” means:
  + “Conveyed from one place to another; removed to heaven without dying; rendered into another language.”
* God the Father has “translated” us i.e., He has transferred our citizenship. He has taken us from the “power of darkness” where the wrath of God was abiding upon us and “translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.” Put another way, he has placed us under the authority and headship of His Son our savior the Lord Jesus Christ.
  + Ephesians 5:8
  + I Thessalonians 5:4-5, 5-9
* We will talk more next week about “the kingdom of his dear Son.”