

Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

Info: (651) 283-0568 Discipleship Training Ministries, Inc. www.dtminc.org Today's Date: February 16, 2020

Rescue, Transfer, and Transformation

by Dan Trygg

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from (lit., ‘He-might-take-us-out-from’) this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be the glory forevermore. Amen.” Galatians 1:3-5

“...giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the authority of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son He loves.” Colossians 1:12,13

“Do not conform-yourselves to this age, but transform-yourselves by the renewing of your perception, so that you may test-out-by-trial-to-discover what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:2

“...whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. ¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. ^{4:1} Therefore, since we have this ministry because we were shown mercy, we do not grow faint, ² but we have renounced (‘spoken-out’; ‘spoken-away’) the things hidden because of shame, not walking in craftiness (misleading or manipulative intent) or distorting the word of God. Instead, by the clear-disclosure of truth we are demonstrating ourselves to every person’s conscience in the sight of God. ³ And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ in whose case the god of this age has blinded the perceptions of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.” 2 Corinthians 3:16-4:4

We have been studying the kingdom of God, the realm where God is respected and obeyed. **In eternity past, God the Creator had always been respected and obeyed** (as far as we know – Deut. 29:29), **until the covering cherub, who became Satan, rebelled against Him** (Ezk. 28:12-16). **Satan came to our first parents in the garden, and lured them into rebellion, as well.** At that point, the world, which had been good and full of life became broken, twisted and perverted by sin. The corruption of sin spread throughout the entire natural order, and the consequence of human sin, ...death..., spread with it. **This was the beginning of the present evil age, the age of sin and brokenness.**

God chose Abram, and his descendants, to be the beginning of His plan to redeem this planet, and to reveal His character. After delivering them from bondage, **He made a covenant with them to be their King. They were to be His people, a nation set apart for and dedicated to Him.** They were to be a kingdom of priests, ...bringing the needs of people to God in prayer and sacrifice, and bringing the message and directives of God to the people. **They were to demonstrate the character and wisdom of God by how they lived, and be a light of revelation to the other nations.** Unfortunately, the Israelites did not fulfill these purposes of God, and had little impact on others.

In spite of their inconsistencies, unbelief and unfaithfulness, God continued to work out His plan to free humankind from the dominion of darkness. **Throughout the centuries, Yahweh set forth numerous prophecies, preparing for, delineating and describing the salvation He intended to institute.** He would raise up a descendant of David to reign as king over those who would covenant with Him. **The new covenant would make possible a transformed heart, a heart that would desire to obey God’s will** (Ezk 36:24-28; Jer. 31:31-33). God would initiate a kingdom that would spread throughout the world (Dan. 2,7), a *new age* of righteousness, from the Ancient of Days.

Jesus proclaimed that the kingdom of God has come near. It is present, impending, available, ...*now*. **The life that Jesus offers to those who identify with Him as their King is called “age-type life”,** life of the age to come, the age of the kingdom of God, ...the age that will continue on into the eternal future, even after this evil age comes to an end.

This is all ground we have covered in our study to this point. **The passages for today’s study speak of the rescue from the present evil age, the transfer from the kingdom of darkness, and the transformation that takes place as we discover and walk in the power of the new covenant.** Let’s take a closer look:

Galatians 1:3-5 says that **Jesus gave Himself for our sins** (as a redemptive sacrifice). **He did this in order that he might rescue us from** (lit., He might take us out from) **the present evil age.**

We live in a time of two ages, ...a time of overlap. A time when the present, evil age is here, established, set in place, ...and yet it is also a time where the new age of the kingdom of God has been instituted and is spreading abroad, ...expanding, ...displacing the evil age of brokenness with life, healing and righteousness. It was instituted in world history with the death and resurrection of Christ, but it is also instituted in the life of every believer when they trust in Him and they are born from above. **God’s purpose is to rescue us from the present evil age.**

This new birth, and new life from the Spirit, is what qualifies us to **be transferred out from the authority and power of darkness and into the kingdom of God’s Son** (Jn. 1:12,13; 3:1-8). It has made possible that we become heirs of God, ...joint heirs with Christ (Gal. 3:29; Rom. 8:16,17). Colossians 1:12,13 talks about how God has delivered us from the authority of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of God’s Son. **When our citizenship was**

transferred from the kingdom of darkness, the enemy lost his dominating authority. When we became citizens of the kingdom of God, we became entitled to all the legal rights that accompany our new standing. **We have a new inheritance to discover** (Eph. 1:11-21). We also now have authority over the power of the enemy (Lk. 9:1; 10:17-20; Eph. 6:10-20; Jas. 4:7,8; 1 Pet. 5:8,9). **He may still try to dominate us, even though he has no legal right to do so. We must come to understand and be confident in our authority to be able to resist him and stand firm.**

This final component is the fulfillment of God's rescue and transfer work in our lives. **The Lord rescued us out from the legal authority and power of the present evil age, ...and transferred our citizenship out-from the authority of darkness, and into the kingdom of light, the kingdom of His Son, granting us spiritual authority and power..., so that He might bring about a work of transformation in our lives.**

We see this stated in Romans 12:2, "Don't conform yourselves to this age (the present, evil age), but transform yourselves by the renewing of your perception..." **Jesus gave Himself to rescue us from this present evil age, and we have been transferred from its dominion in our lives, so that we could walk in the power of transformation!**

Transformation is not a one-time event. It is an incremental process.

Transformation is also not an automatic, passive process, either, ...it requires an intentional pursuit of new understanding, new insights, and a new ability to see things that you did not recognize before.

Transformation will also require experimentation. Transformation happens *as we walk out our faith* in practical application. We are to "test-out-by-trial-to-discover". Note that we *cannot* and *will not* successfully "test-out-by-trial-to-discover ...the will of God" without new perceptions. We must *make adjustments*, which can only happen with new insights and new ideas.

Transformation is an "inside-out process". The Greek word for transformation is "metamorphosis". It refers to an outward change of form in response to inner change. As we *perceive* new things, and *act in response* to those new insights, we will *do things differently*. **Outward change will be the result of inward insights.**

Transformation is focused on discovering and implementing the will of God. Transformation is not just for self-development, though self-maturation and self-actualization are part of the process. **The goal of transformation is the fulfillment of God's kingdom purposes in and through our lives.**

Transformation requires separation and change. The first part of the verse prepares for the second part. We must *choose to no longer conform to this age*, in order for a new possibility for our lives to happen. You cannot do the *same thing* and a *different thing* at the same time. **You must put aside the old, in order to take up the new, ...but then you must follow-through! You must choose to do the new thing God is prompting you to do.** Choosing to *not conform* is only part of the process. It is *not* doing what you habitually did before, ...but it is *not* a positive expression of new life. **Transformation becomes evident when we choose to live differently, to live out the leading of the Holy Spirit.**

Transformation requires the life and power of the Holy Spirit. Transformation is *not* just the reworking of *our life energies and abilities*; it is the *expression of the life and energy of Another* who lives within us. It is Christ in us, by the indwelling Holy Spirit, who is our hope of glory (Col 1:28). *He* brings the divine life into our lives. *He* is the fragrance of Christ within us that others can detect. Paul even asks the question: Who is adequate or sufficient for these things? (2 Cor. 2:16) Who can do *that*? He answers the question in 2 Cor. 3:5,6. It is the Spirit within us that produces the aroma of Christ. It is the Spirit that writes the visible expression of Christ on our hearts, which other people can then experience and "read" (2 Cor. 3:2,3). **Paul makes it very clear: We are not just "keeping the law", or "trying to be good". No there is something else, radically different, going on here. It is the life energy and quality that is super-natural, ...something beyond normal human living. It is the life that the Spirit gives, and produces in us** (2 Cor. 3:6). **This is the radiance that people will see in us, as we give expression to it.**

Transformation requires a voluntary partnership with God. Satan tries to *block our discovery* of these awesome and powerful possibilities, and he tries to *distract us from our responsibilities* to participate in God's amazing new covenant work in our lives. **We must make the choice to draw near to God as our Source.** Jesus said we are to abide in Him, get our life from Him, or we would be able to do nothing (Jn. 15:5). We are to attend to Him, look to Him in dependence and worship. We are to learn to delight in Him and be filled with His vitality. Just as Moses was transfigured when he *spent time in the presence of God*, we also will be transformed (*metamorphosis*) as we "gaze upon His glory". **We also must make the choice to embrace death to self, in order that the life of Jesus might be expressed through us.** "...always carrying in the body the dying of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus could be made visible in us" (2 Cor. 4:10). **This is where we must do the hard work of exposing and dealing honestly with our past sins, hurts, and false beliefs.** We must "renounce" these things by naming and rejecting them, and embracing the truth that is in Christ. **We must make the choice to demonstrate the life that is in us by our attitudes, behavior and service to others.** Read 2 Cor. 6:1-10 to see what *that* covers. Don't waste or miss out on the grace God would give to you.