

*“True Freedom – The Redemptive Work of Christ”*

*Col. 1:12-14*

*Knowing Him and Making Him Known*

There are three quick questions summarizing these three verses. Who did it? (v.12a), God did it. What did He do? (vv. 12b, 13), He qualified us to share in the inheritance. How did He do it? (v.14), through His Son Jesus.

Our text points out four qualities that change with this divine transfer.

I. There was a transfer *from disqualified to qualified* (v.12).

If the Son has made you qualified to inherit His reward, then there is nothing you can do to undo what is done. You did nothing to become qualified and there is nothing you can do to become disqualified.

II. There was a transfer *from darkness to light* (v. 13a)

This deliverance is a rescuing of the believer from the power of darkness and then placing him into the kingdom of His beloved Son.

Paul asked the question found on the lips of all who seek Him (Rom. 7:24).

Romans 7:24 “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?”

We are no longer under the authority of darkness. We are now in the kingdom of His beloved Son. What kind of kingdom is this? What marks this reign?

- A love that is without condition.
- An acceptance that is without requirement.
- A forgiveness that is without limit.
- It is a place where struggle can be shared without fear of judgment, alienation, or condemnation.

This is the reign of His beloved Son. If the Son has moved you from darkness to light, then there is nothing you can do to undo what is done.

*Continued on the other side...*

There was a transfer *from slavery to freedom* (v. 14a [redemption]).

It is in the Son that we have redemption. The debt against us has been cancelled. "Redemption [is] the word used for the emancipation of a slave and for the buying back of something which was in the power of someone else." (Barclay, Colossians, 112) Friend, there is no possible way for you to pay God back. The debt before God is incapable of being paid off by finite man. God must forgive the debt. He has every reason to do so in the sufficient sacrifice of His Son.

If the Son has set you free, then there is nothing you can do to undo what is done.

III. There was a transfer *from condemnation to forgiveness* (v. 14b).

The forgiveness of sins is directly linked to redemption. The wages of sin is death. Without redemption, only condemnation exists. With redemption, forgiveness is given. We fail to comprehend these important words. Everything against you has been judged already. What does forgiven mean?

- The barrier has been abolished.
- The stain has been removed.
- The debt has been cancelled.
- The gap has been closed.
- The door has been opened.
- The storm has been abated.
- The wrath has been placated.
- The justice has been satisfied.

If the Son has forgiven you, then there is nothing you can do to undo what is done.