

Christ is Our Deliverer

Colossians 1:13-14

13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

“Christ is our Redeemer” is the theme of these two verses, but they hold much more truth than just that summary assertion. Paul tells us four *reasons* why “Christ is our Redeemer” in such a way that suggests three *results* of this truth.

The four reasons why are seen in four things God did for us to make Christ our Redeemer.

1. He delivered us.
2. He transferred us.
3. He loved us.
4. He forgave us.

The three results of Christ being our Redeemer that answer the question “so what,” all stem from the Old Testament shadow of our redemption seen in the key event in Israel’s history—namely, the exodus.

1. Love Him back (Exodus 19:4-6; 20:2-3; Deuteronomy 6:6).
2. Never go back (Exodus 13:17; Deuteronomy 17:16).
3. Worship His back (Exodus 33:18-23; 34:6-8).

Discussion Questions

1. (Ice-breaker) Is there ever value, in your opinion, of stating obvious truths like “Christ is our Redeemer”? If so, what is that value?
2. (1:13) To “deliver” here is to “rescue.” What is the most gripping story of rescue with which you are personally familiar? From what tyranny or darkness are you particularly grateful that God has delivered you?
3. (1:13) To “transfer” here is to “transplant” from one realm to another one. What example can you think of in which someone was rescued out of somewhere dangerous but not transferred into someplace safe? On a scale of 1 (insecure) to 10 (completely safe) how secure do you feel in the Kingdom of Christ? Explain your answer.
4. (1:13) This verse says that God the Father “loves” Jesus, His Son (“beloved” or literally “the son of his love”). How do you think Ephesians 1:4-7 (a close parallel to Colossians 1:13-14) and John 17:23 & 26 help us “show our work” in concluding that God the Father loves us?

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5. (1:14) How would you explain that God the Father forgives us “in” God the Son? How do Colossians 2:13; 3:13; Ephesians 1:7; Acts 13:38; 26:18; Romans 3:25-26; and 1 John 2:12 help your explanation?

 6. (1:14) To “redeem” here is to “buy back, as from the slave market.” How does the price that God paid in His Son for your redemption help you understand your worth to Him (see also 1 Peter 1:18-19)?

 7. All Jewish and God-fearing readers of Colossians 1:13-14 would have thought of God delivering His people from Pharaoh’s tyranny and delivering them into His promised land in the exodus. Of the three responses God was seeking from His people in the exodus (in the Old Testament literally and in our experience figuratively), which one most impresses you as the right response for you to make today to God’s redemption in Christ by which He delivered you, transferred you, loved you, and forgave you? (See above: love Him back (1 John 4:19), never go back (Romans 12:2; 1 John 2:15-16; Luke 9:62), and worship His back (Hebrews 12:28-29; cf. Exodus 33-34)).

 8. Is there ever value, in your opinion, of stating obvious truths like “Christ is our Redeemer” without understanding and without personal application? If so, what is that value?

 9. (Overall) If you could only choose one of these four verbs God did for you in Christ (see above —delivered, transferred, loved, forgave), which would it be and why?