

## RESCUED

Colossians 1:12-13 “The Father. . .rescued us from the authority of the darkness and transferred us into the rule of His beloved Son”

There is nothing more exciting than a dramatic rescue. Several weekly T.V. series center around the lives of firehouses. The focus of these shows is on the rescue work that the firemen are often called upon to do. I don't know about you, but the things people do to endanger their lives and the heroic efforts of rescue squads to save them from their folly never ceases to amaze me.

Today's Bible verse is about your rescue by your heavenly Father. While those who are rescued by rescue squads will never forget how they were saved and who did it, you may not be aware, you may have no memory of your need to be rescued. However, St. Paul wrote, “Your heavenly Father . . .rescued you from the authority of the darkness . . .”

Paul's words are in the past tense. At one time you were “dead in your trespasses and sin.” (Ephesians 2:1) You were under the complete influence and control of Satan. Your rescue from him and his wicked power came about when you were baptized. Through your baptism a miracle occurred. Through that sacrament you were freed (rescued) from the power of the forces of evil, namely Satan and his allies the sinful world and your own sinful flesh. Your rescue is an accomplished fact.

When the rescue squad successfully rescue's you, they withdraw from your life. In most all instances they will have nothing more to do in your life. When you were rescued by your Heavenly Father from the “authority of darkness” your Heavenly Father did not withdraw from your life. Rather, through your baptism you received the gift of faith in Jesus and were connected to Him. The Bible verse says, you were “transferred into the rule of His beloved Son.”

Because of God's rescue of you, your life was changed. You ceased being under the control of the evil one and became a member of God's kingdom of grace. You were freed from not only the sins you commit but also from God's punishment of you because of them. He rescued, He saved you in the here and now and for all

eternity. "Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them."  
(Romans 4:8)

Prayer: Thank You, O Lord, for rescuing me from darkness and bringing me into  
Your Kingdom of Light. Keep me in Your kingdom now and for all eternity. In  
Jesus' name. Amen.

Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King, The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God, Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad, The honors of Thy name.

Jesus! The name that charms our fears, That bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears, 'Tis life and health and peace.

He breaks the pow'r of canceled sin; He sets the pris'ner free.  
His blood can make the foulest clean; His blood avails for me.

Look unto Him, ye nations; own Your God, ye fallen race,  
Look and be saved through faith alone, Be justified by grace.

See all your sins on Jesus laid; The Lamb of God was slain.  
His soul was once an off'ring made For ev'ry soul of man.

To God all glory, praise, and love Be now and ever giv'n  
By saints below and saints above, The Church in earth and heav'n.  
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