

Greetings to you! Our theme for this morning's meditation is, "Jesus has brought us out of darkness into light". When we think of darkness it is symbolic of evil, ignorance, sin and walking according to Satan's plan rather than God's plan. This morning we will be looking at the New Testament reading taken from the book of Colossians. The letter to the Colossians was probably written when Paul was in prison in Rome where he spent almost two years under house arrest around 60 AD. Colossae is present day Turkey and was a leading city in Asia Minor several hundred years before Paul's day. It was Ephaphras a convert of Paul who took the gospel to Colossae.

Paul was writing to the Colossians because false teaching had crept into the church particularly an extreme form of Judaism and an early stage of Gnosticism. These false teachers were primarily telling them that the work of Jesus Christ was not sufficient for their salvation. They also taught the people that Christ was a created being and therefore inferior to God. They believed in secret knowledge which would lead them to salvation. Salvation was seen as the escape from the body not achieved by faith in Christ but through secret knowledge.

Paul therefore tells the Colossians that he and the other apostles were praying for them so that they would know the will of God. The will of God would be understood through the wisdom and understanding that the Holy Spirit gives. This knowledge is not just an intellectual knowledge or secret knowledge but knowledge that leads to right action. The key point he makes is to know how to relate the unchanging principles of God's will revealed through his word to the present and quickly changing situations of the day.

The purpose of his prayer is that they would lead a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way. Similarly, the challenge comes to each one of us that as God has brought us out from darkness to light, we too should lead a life worthy of the Lord. How are we to lead this life? Paul reminds the Colossians and us that we should bear fruit in every good work. Our knowledge of God and our salvation is to result in good works and righteousness. The goal of our redemption is not piety or spirituality but righteousness. Being spiritual means that we behave in a manner where we exhibit the character of God. The discipline of prayer, bible study, church fellowship, witnessing and the like are not ends in themselves, but are designed to assist us in living righteously.

Not only were they reminded to bear fruit in their lives but they were also to be growing in the knowledge of God. When we receive Christ we are born into the family of God but we are not to be stunted. We can grow strong through the power and strength that Jesus gives us through the Holy Spirit who lives within us. The glorious might of Jesus was shown on the day of his resurrection when all the powers of darkness could not keep him down and Satan and all his powers were defeated. That same power and strength is made available to us through his Holy Spirit.

Jesus has called us out to be his people in the kingdom of light. This kingdom is radiated by the brightness of the Sun of Righteousness, shining in his people's heart. This is contrasted to the dominion of darkness to which we once belong and were rescued. God has rescued each one of us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of his Son he loves. By virtue of the resurrection Jesus raided the domain of darkness and rescues those who so far have been bound under the control of these forces. The guardians of these dark powers are the principalities and powers to which the people of Colossians were tempted to pay homage. No longer were they to live in fear because Christ has brought them into the kingdom of light.

Jesus has brought each one of us out from darkness into light. We are challenged to walk according to the light. May God the Holy Spirit strengthen us and help us to walk as the children of light.