

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of **His** love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible **God**, the firstborn over all creation.

Colossians 1:13-15. NKJ (My emphasis)

In the quotation to the left, the **bold** is God the Father. The underlined is the Son, Who is also deity, God. The writing was inspired by the Spirit of God, Who is also deity. What an amazing text which shows God's purpose in Christ Jesus for our salvation!

The kingdom. When Paul was writing the Christians had already been conveyed into the kingdom. It is the kingdom of the Son, Who is Jesus. This text teaches us that the Kingdom is not in our future but is in our present just as it was in Paul's day. To enter the kingdom one must be born again (John 3:3,

5). The new birth brings new life and that new life begins when one is baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Romans 6:3-5; Acts 2:38). Those who teach that the Kingdom of Christ is to be established in the future are wrong. Do not follow them.

The King's Rule. With any kingdom there is law, and it is the same with the spiritual kingdom which is the church. This 'law' was given through the Holy Spirit to the apostles and prophets who penned it for us to study, know and obey. It is the "perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25) and the law of Christ (1 Corinthians 9:21). As the law of Moses was described as a covenant, so the new law of Christ is the covenant of Christ (Hebrews 8-9). This law guides us in life. It directs us in good and warns us of evil. When we walk in this law we are walking in the light as John instructs us to do (1 John 1:5-7). This law is not to be changed, for it is complete and perfect (Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Timothy 2:2)

Redemption. We all sin and are doomed to spiritual death if we are not forgiven. Redemption, forgiveness, is offered only through Jesus (John 14:6). The price for our redemption was paid by the blood of the Son of God, Jesus, as Paul noted: "in whom we have redemption through His blood." Stop and reflect upon the fact that your sin is the reason Jesus died on the cross! That is the horrible nature of sin. Then think about the love God has for us in that He would sacrifice His Son for us! We must ask: "When does God forgive?" It is not at the point of faith. At faith we have the power to become children of God but faith does not make us children of God. Sins are forgiven at baptism (Acts 2:38) and the new life begins at baptism (Romans 6:5; Colossians 2:12-13). Redemption and forgiveness of sin happens at the same time through the same act of obedience – baptism. Any person who tells you that you are saved at the point of faith is wrong. Do not follow them. Anyone who says baptism does not save places themselves in opposition to Jesus and Peter (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). Do not oppose Jesus!

The image of God. Jesus told His apostle, "He who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). This likeness is not physical but spiritual for God is Spirit (John 4:24). Jesus is the "express image" of the Father (Hebrews 1:3). The Jews understood the claim of Jesus and wanted to stone Him because He made Himself equal to God, which they thought was blasphemy rather than truth (John 10:29-33).

The firstborn over all creation. Since there was nothing made without Jesus creating it, it is obvious that Jesus was not created (John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16). David was also called the firstborn of all the kings of the earth, but he was not the first king and not even the first king of Israel (Psalm 89:27). In that Psalm as here in Colossians, the position of firstborn is the position of honor. Truly Jesus has that honor and all should recognize and proclaim it (Philippians 2:9-11).