

# Readings

## Scripture

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

- Colossians 1:13-14 (*English Standard Version*)

## Reflection

The life of Jesus Christ creates unique communities of disciples rooted in grace that worship their risen Lord and find themselves compelled to give that life away.

A disciple is someone who gets the life of Christ, experiences the life of Christ with others, and obeys Jesus' command to give the life away.

"See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him."

- Colossians 2:8-15 (*English Standard Version*)

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Romans 5:18-21 (*English Standard Version*)

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 1 Corinthians 15:56-57 (*English Standard Version*)

Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

- Romans 3:19-20 (*English Standard Version*)

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

- Dr. Martin Luther, *Evening Prayer* (*Luther's Small Catechism*)

# Sermon Outline

**There is an Enemy: Life on the Front Lines** *The Rooted Experience*  
Colossians 1:13-14 Brad Anderson

*The beauty of grace is seen through its work...* (Colossians 1:13-14)

**Grace delivers from an external enemy...** (Colossians 2:8-15)

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**Grace delivers from an internal enemy...** (Romans 5:18-21)

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**Grace supplies total freedom from the ultimate enemy...** (1 Corinthians 15:56-57)

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## Reflection Questions

 (*taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups*)

- How have repeated patterns of sin in your life caused problems or challenged your relationships?
- Read Ephesians 6:10-18. How is the armor of God a description of a disciplined Christian life? How might the teaching of Ephesians 6:10-18 impact your week's battle against your own sinful nature and the Devil's temptations?
- In what ways can you serve and encourage others who have been wounded by the devil's attacks and the deadly results of sin? Specifically, who are people around you that need you to bring them hope and help through Jesus? How might you do that?
- Share a time when you experienced the peace (shalom) of God that surpasses all human understanding? (Philippians 5:5-7) When did God's peace surprise or overwhelm you?
- 1 John 3:8 says, "Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil." Describe how the victory of Jesus Christ over sin and death destroy the works of the devil.