

Extravagant Provision

A Great Deliverance

I. The Cross "in" Us

1 Corinthians 3:1-2 (NIV)

¹ Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly--mere infants in Christ. ² I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready.

Deliverance from this present evil age

Deliverance from the Law

Deliverance from self

Deliverance from the flesh

Deliverance from the world

II. This Present Age?

Galatians 1:3-5 (NIV)

³ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴ **who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age**, according to the will of our God and Father, ⁵ to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

A. Observations

1. We do not belong to it

2. It is coming to a close

Matthew 13:38-39 (NIV)

³⁸ The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sows them is the devil. **The harvest is the end of the age**, and the harvesters are angels.

3. It has an evil god

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NIV)

⁴ **The god of this age** has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Matthew 24:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

4. Consumed & unfruitful

Matthew 13:21-22 (NASB)

²¹ yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, **this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.**

B. Conformed or Transformed

Romans 12:2 (NASB)

² And **do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed** by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Timothy 4:9-10 (NASB)

⁹ Make every effort to come to me soon; ¹⁰ for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica

III. Deliverance from Law & Self

A. The Law and Righteousness

1. Mosaic Law, given by God

Romans 7:12 (NIV)

¹² So then, **the law is holy**, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good.

2. "under the law"

Galatians 3:10 (NIV)

¹⁰ **All who rely on observing the law are under a curse**, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law."

3. committed to "the law" or "redemption"

Galatians 3:11-13 (NIV)

¹¹ Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith." ¹² The law is not based on faith; on the contrary, "The man who does these things will live by them." ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

4. Living by the law or by faith?

Romans 6:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ For sin shall not be your master, because **you are not under law, but under grace.**

5. Led by the Spirit

Romans 8:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ because **those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.**

B. Deliverance from Self

Galatians 2:20 (NIV)

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but **Christ lives in me.** The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

"not I but Christ"

Matthew 16:24-25 (NIV)

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "**If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself** and take up his cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.

"I want, I feel & I think"

Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV)

⁵ Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross! ⁹ Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Colossians 1:27 (NIV)

²⁷ To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

"Christ in you"

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your great provision for my life. I rejoice in the fullness of my salvation. My desire is to honor You with my entire being. May Your Spirit open my eyes to any place within me that limits Your purposes. I choose life. I choose obedience. I choose to humble myself. I choose Jesus as my Lord. I choose to complete the course designed for me. Grant me the strength and courage to align my will with Your invitations. In Jesus' name, amen.