

## Plucked From the Darkness

Offense and Defense Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father

Galatians 1:4

Each of us to varying degrees has been rescued at some time in our life. Fortunately, most of our deliverances are usually minor and simple. Maybe we have been rescued when our car broke down on the side of the road, or a friend lent us money at a check-out counter when we forgot our wallet; while others may have been dramatically rescued from a fire or from drowning. What a wonderful feeling it is to be delivered from an unpleasant or even dangerous circumstance and restored to a pleasant and safe environment.

Today's text reminds us that we live in a hostile world. In the apostle Paul's day, the world was evil, and in our current times, our world continues to be evil. The curse with its corrupting principle permeates every nook and cranny of the globe. Sadly, the innocence of youth is quickly assaulted by the temptations of a corrupt culture as everywhere we look, we see manifestations of a world that is gone awry. Wars, anger, selfishness, hatred, murders, immorality, and depression, are just a few earmarks that remind us that this current life is not heaven.

This verse reminds us of God's solution for the world, which is twofold since He addresses both eternal and temporal problems. First and foremost, Jesus Christ gave himself for our sins. From an eternal perspective, nothing is more important for us than this. Jesus' willingness to give His sinless life as a complete payment for our sins secured eternal life for all who believe. Life on earth with all its pain and difficulties will pale in significance when we safely step on heaven's shore. Until that day, Jesus' death and resurrection have the power also to deliver us from our daily struggles with this evil world. The word deliver in this text has the connotation of being plucked from something. God's plan is for people to repent and believe the gospel, and thereby the Lord plucks us from the path of destruction and all the things that accompany it. Our new life in Christ is directed by the instruction of the scriptures and the indwelling Holy Spirit instead of the influences that are directed by the prince of the power of the air. As children of God, we become strangers and pilgrims in this present evil world.

Prayerfully, the world that thinks it strange we run not with them will be convicted and curious about our life in Christ. Being delivered from the power of this evil world, we are commanded to shine the light of Christ to the world. Let us shine the light of Christ so that others may be plucked from the clutches of this world. ~J. Ekis