

## Domains and Kingdoms; Colossians 1:13-14

### I. Walk

#### a. "When in Rome..."

- i. A phrase that has morphed in meaning over time
- ii. Ambrose of Milan served as the Bishop of Milan from 374 – 397
- iii. He was also a theologian and a statesman
- iv. He responded to a question about fast days, "when I am here (in Milan) I do not fast on Saturday, when in Rome I do fast on Saturday"
- v. Today this phrase has come to mean 'follow those who know what they are doing'

#### b. We are encouraged to "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord"

- i. Colossians 1:9–10 (ESV) <sup>9</sup> And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
- ii. We should not follow those who we think 'know what they are doing'
- iii. God admonishes us to follow those who follow Him
- iv. 1 Corinthians 10:31–11:1 (ESV) <sup>31</sup> So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. <sup>32</sup> Give no offense to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God, <sup>33</sup> just as I try to please everyone in everything I do, not seeking my own advantage, but that of many, that they may be saved. <sup>1</sup> Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

#### c. We no longer belong to this world, so we should not live like we do

### II. Delivered

#### a. "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness"

#### b. To rescue from danger, save, rescue, deliver, preserve <sup>1</sup>

- i. We need rescuing
- ii. We live in a world full of danger
- iii. Acts 2:40 (ESV) <sup>40</sup> And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." iv. Romans 1:21–25 (ESV) <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Claiming to be wise, they became fools, <sup>23</sup> and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. <sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, <sup>25</sup> because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

<sup>1</sup> William Arndt et al., [\*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature\*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 907.

- v. Most of us don't see this world as a danger, so we don't see ourselves needing to be rescued

c. Domain

- i. The right to control or command, *authority, absolute power, warrant* <sup>2</sup>
- ii. "Domain" is about the authority to rule, not a physical place
- iii. We have been rescued from the one who has authority to rule in this world iv. Ephesians 2:1–3 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.
- v. This is a picture of who we once were; a reminder of who we used to be (some of us may still be there, in Satan's domain)
- vi. Ephesians 2:4–6 (ESV) <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

- d. We recognized our need to be rescued and submitted to God's authority

III. Transferred

- a. "And transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son"
- b. To move from one place to another
- c. We have been removed from the authority (domain) of Satan to the Kingdom (authority) of Jesus
- d. Kingdom
  - i. Sovereignty
  - ii. The reign of the Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace
  - iii. Isaiah 9:6–7 (ESV) <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.
  - iv. Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom (the kingdom is at hand) v. Mark 9:1 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some

standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power.”

<sup>2</sup> William Arndt et al., [\*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature\*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 353.

vi. Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection ushered in the Kingdom on the Day of Pentecost

vii. People were encouraged to let go of their past (the Law) and to enter the Kingdom through the blood of Jesus

e. Redemption

i. We find redemption in the Kingdom, we find rescue in the kingdom

ii. We have been rescued from Satan and removed to the Kingdom of Jesus, “in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (verse 14)

iii. That is what redemption does; it rescues us from Satan and transfers us to God

iv. Psalm 103:1–4 (ESV) <sup>1</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! <sup>2</sup> Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, <sup>3</sup> who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, <sup>4</sup> who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

v. Psalm 103:10–12 (ESV) <sup>10</sup> He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. <sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; <sup>12</sup> as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

vi. David, a prophet under the Law of Moses, understood true redemption

vii. We are redeemed, our sins washed away by the blood of Jesus

viii. The old man (in the old domain) is crucified with Jesus so that our sin is brought to mean nothing (Romans 6:6)

1. That phrase is one word in the Greek

2. To cause something to come to an end or to be no longer in existence, *abolish, wipe out, set aside* <sup>3</sup>

f. But none of this happens if we continue in the domain of Satan

IV. Walk Worthy

a. To walk worthy means to bear fruit (good deeds) and learn more (increasing in the knowledge of God) verse 10

b. To walk worthy means to let go of this domain, the rule of Satan

c. To walk worthy means to be transferred to the Kingdom of Jesus

<sup>3</sup> William Arndt et al., [\*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature\*](#) (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2000), 525.