

TRANSLATED IN THE KINGDOM

Beloved Sisters and Brethren

Col 1:13: *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:*

Translated in Greek is by two words-meta denoting amid, abide, accomplish and histemi to carry away. Thus it denotes very positive action which in the Gospel involves a newness of life and this concept is well known to all who have been baptised if we so apply ourselves.

Meta is interesting as a prefix in that it relates to change, e.g. metamorphosis with which we are familiar in insects such as butterflies and moths. They start off (generated inside the female as eggs, fertilised by a male, laid on a food plant, emerge as a caterpillar, grow, and at the right time weave a cocoon in which they undergo a further transformation and emerge as a perfected adult in resplendent beauty capable of starting off a new generation

The translation that Paul is speaking of concerning those called to the Truth is "into the Kingdom of His dear Son"

Col 3:1-10: *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of*

*your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*

This is the transformation expected of those whom God has chosen

Paul wrote this letter to the ecclesia whilst he was in prison at Rome. Thus we see Paul redeeming time and opportunity. Of baptism Paul wrote to those at Rome

*Romans 6:5-6: For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*

This in itself is a transformation but I wonder if this aspect gets the attention it deserves in preparation for baptism or is more attention given to knowledge and this aspect given less attention. :

*Romans 6:7-8: For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. In this Paul is clearly speaking of a transformation*

It is interesting to note that Colossae was located in what was then known as Asia (now Turkey) where the seven ecclesias addressed in chapters two and three of The Revelation of Jesus Christ were to be found. It is sobering to find that five of those were warned to change in certain aspects or their candlestick would be taken away. Laodicea is mentioned by Paul in this letter and they were still extant to be judged by Our Lord(Rev 3vs14-22)

Paul had worries concerning certain aspects of the Colosse ecclesia when he wrote about thirty years before Jesus gave the Revelation to John. That they were not spoken of by Jesus may indicate that Colosse had lost their crown by that time. During Paul's first imprisonment in Rome.

At that time Colosse which in times past had been a leading market city was somewhat diminished to a small market town. Asia was an area perhaps of 200 miles x100 . Of course it matters not the background for Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

The calling to serve The Almighty requires the whole heart and mind as this study shows, and we learn as Paul goes on to say in the third chapter ye have put off the old man with his deeds as “being transformed “ clearly indicates

*Colossians 3:10 -11 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him. The thrust of the change is in the heart. Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.*

*2Corinthians 5:17-18; Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;*

It is evident from v4 of this first chapter that Paul had no part in the establishment of this ecclesia but he is pleased to learn that they are fruitful in the spirit Col 1:5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;

*Colossians 1:6 Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:*

Paul also speaks of their transformation that they might now walk worthy and v21 being reconciled (by his blood Eph2v16)

*Colossians 1:21-23 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.*

Whilst Paul was concerned for their welfare he had other ecclesias to care for bringing home the message:

*Philippians 2:12-13: Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.*

This shows clearly that it is nothing automatic in this transformation as there is with the insect world so then it is Growing in the spirit and dying in worldly qualities and this he enlarges on in chapter

Put On the New Self:

*Colossians 3:1-17 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

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*For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked some time, when ye lived in them. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*

These words of Paul are very helpful; to be meditated upon and put into practice, and then the personal transformation that he is speaking of will come about. Even so we must remember and ponder that it is not automatic and was not even for The Lord Jesus

*Hebrews 5:7 -8: Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered.*

We have made reference to Jesus and those ecclesias in Asia and how only two of the seven got approval. Paul in writing to Colosse is concerned not only for their personal behaviour but also how they

might be undermined or influenced by those without so that although Paul addresses them in very commendable terms in the beginning of this letter In chapter 2 He warns them not to be enticed by men with pleasing words. Paul did no write in the abstract so it is very likely that he had good reason for that warning (Jude1v4 &5) for example

and being Col 2:7 “Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving”. There is no need to go anywhere else for the Truth as The Gospel is complete as Paul wrote to Timothy 2Ti 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

So Paul is concerned for them as an ecclesia as he says Col 1:23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Thus not only do we have to work for our own salvation but guard against false doctrine.

Attention has already been directed the seven ecclesias five of whom as ecclesias were wanting

Since the revival of the Truth in these last days there has been much falling away. First the followers were called “Thomasites” but the doctor saw this changed to Christadelphian. Those bearing this name are many even to this day but do not properly understand the doctrine of Fellowship (it seems they think “once a brother always a brother” and so do not hold The Truth.

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*creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.*

The Truth does not change. But those in Christadelphia have moved away from it although they have access to many of the writings of Dr. Thomas and have among their number capable men able to research the Signs of the Times.

Since then there have been many factions but having well-meaning people.

In recent years a doctrine was brought in by The Ecclesia of Christ which had separated from The Christadelphians. That ecclesial group adopted the principle that certain things that were not good to eat and it was maintained as a doctrine. It was from these that the people now in the Apostolic Ecclesia separated because of this new adoption. But even here Paul in this letter to the Colossians 2:16 *Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:*

Why do these things happen-they are of God and for the elects sake as Paul said in 2 Thessalonians 2v10 *because they received not the love of the Truth that they might be saved*

Brotherly love to all in Christ

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