

(Col 1:13-20 RSV)

*He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

*He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities – all things were created through him and for him.*

*He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him all the fulness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

(NET)

*He delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation, for all things in heaven and on earth were created by him- all things, whether visible or invisible, whether thrones or dominions, whether principalities or powers- all things were created through him and for him.*

*He himself is before all things and all things are held together in him. He is the head of the body, the church, as well as the beginning, the firstborn from among the dead, so that he himself may become first in all things. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in the Son and through him to reconcile all things to himself by making peace through the blood of his cross-through him, whether things on earth or things in heaven.*

(NEB)

*He rescued us from the domain of darkness and brought us away into the kingdom of his dear Son, in whom our release is secured and our sins are forgiven.*

*He is the image of the invisible God: his is the primacy over all creation. In him everything in heaven and on earth was created, not only things visible but also the invisible orders of thrones, sovereignties, authorities and powers; the whole universe has been created through him and for him.*

*He exists before all things, and all things are held together in him. He is moreover, the head of the body, the church. He is its origin, the first to return from the dead, to become in all things supreme. For in him the complete bring of God, in all his fullness chose to dwell. Through him God chose to reconcile the whole universe to himself, making peace through the shedding of his blood on the cross - to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, through him alone*

Paul also wrote to churches that grew up around those which he had personally founded – they had not personally seen Paul, but they were converts of his converts – here is one letter:

A Study by Gary Allen Henecke DD