A Change of Address



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‘A Change of Address’

by

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A Change of Address

When you order something from a website, you pay for it and give the address you want it sent to. What you've bought is then delivered from the store to the address you've given. The item you've bought has changed its address. It no longer lives at the store – it now lives with you.

Do you know that when you were born-again, your address changed? When you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, He had you delivered from your old address to a new address — His address. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says – '*You are not your own* [20]*for you were bought with a price*.' Jesus paid the price for you and gave His home address, and you were delivered from where you

were to His address. And that is where you now live. Colossians 1:13 says that God — '*delivered us out of the power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love*.'

Our old address was darkness and our new address is the light of Jesus. 1 Peter 2:9 describes us as — '*a people for God's own possession … who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light*.' Light is a much better address to live at than darkness!

How Did He Do It?

Jesus says in John 12:46 — "*I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in the darkness*." Jesus came to make it possible for us to come into a personal love relationship with Him and

with God. The thing that had stood in the way of this was sin. So Jesus suffered all God's punishment for all our sin. He took our shame and our guilt on Himself even though He was sinless in His life on earth. He suffered the subsequent punishment so that we wouldn't have to suffer it ourselves. That's how much He loves us. All our sins are now forgiven — past, present and future. And when we are born-again by accepting Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, we are delivered to Jesus' home address of light and enter into that love relationship with Him.

Romans 10:9-10 says — '*if you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* [10]*For with the heart one believes resulting in righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made resulting in salvation*.' Do

that sincerely and you will be born-again and you will be delivered from darkness into light. In John 8:12 Jesus says — *"I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life*."

Our Old Address

Our old address was Satan's address. We don't like to think of it this way, but Ephesians 2:2-4 says — *'You were made alive when you were dead in transgressions and sins, [2]in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the children of disobedience. [3]We also all once lived amongst them in the lusts of our flesh, doing the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and*

were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.' 'Children of disobedience' or 'children of wrath' are those who have not accepted Jesus — who have rejected or ignored God's call to draw them to Himself, but as born-again believers this is no longer who we are. The Bible refers to Satan's address as 'the world', 'the kingdom of darkness' and 'this present evil age'.

What Was at Our Old Address?

Everything at our old address could be summed up in the word 'bound'. Psalm 107:10 says – '*Some sat in darkness and in the shadow of death, being bound in affliction and iron, [11]because they rebelled against the words of God, and condemned the counsel of the Most High*.' You may feel that doesn't describe how you once were or

still are, that you haven't rebelled against God's Word. But whenever we just drifted along with the way the world thinks and acts or whenever we simply ignored God and struggled to work things out for ourselves, we were bound 'in affliction and iron'. We were held prisoners in the misery of self-effort, at the mercy of circumstances.

There are many things that could hold us bound when we lived at our old address. Here are some:

- Condemnation
- Spiritual death
- Guilt and shame
- Fear
- Anxiety
- Sickness
- Poverty
- Despair

- Unforgiveness
- Torment
- Offence
- Lies and deception

I'm sure we can all relate to some of these. But they belong to where we used to live, not to where we live now after we are born-again.

Our New Address

In stark contrast, our new address is Jesus' address. The Bible calls it 'the Kingdom of God', 'the Kingdom of light', 'the Kingdom of His dear Son', 'the Kingdom of the Son of His love' and 'heavenly places'. Ephesians 2:5-6 says that God — '*even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — [6]and raised us up with him,*

and made us to sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.'

What Is at Our New Address

Everything we now have at our new address can be summed up in the word 'free' which is the opposite of 'bound'. Jesus says in John 8:36 – "*If therefore the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed*."

Here are some aspects of the freedom which is ours at our new address:

- The presence of God
- Adoption into His family
- Righteousness
- A new spirit
- The Holy Spirit
- The fruit of the Spirit
- The gifts of the Spirit

- Power
- A sound mind
- Health
- Biblical prosperity
- Forgiveness
- Joy
- A garment of praise
- Beauty for ashes
- A new song
- Peace

These aren't things just to look forward to in heaven. They are all part of the life of freedom which is available to us now at our new address in this life here on earth.

Do You Still Visit Your Old Address?

When you are born-again, you no longer belong at your old address. But do you go

back to it in your thoughts? Do you visit it occasionally or stay overnight or take holidays there, or do you even see yourself as still living there? When you read the list of things you left behind at your old address, did you think, but I still have that or I still do that? You may continue to experience some of those things but, however you feel, you are no longer bound by them. You are free, so you don't have to live that way anymore.

When the slaves were emancipated in America, there were some that weren't told what had happened, so they continued to live as slaves even though they were free. We can do the same spiritually. Jesus has set us free, but we can still live as though we are bound. Ephesians 5:8 – '*For you were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord. Walk as children of light*.' We used to live in darkness as children of darkness, but now

we live in the light as children of light, so don't let's walk through our lives as though we were still living in darkness, but let's live according to what we actually are — children of light.

Here are a few aspects of our old address which we may still feel are part of our life and a verse that shows us the truth that we are actually free from them.

Fear:
1 John 4:18 — '*There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear*.'

Guilt:
Hebrews 10:22 (NLT) — '*let us go right into the presence of God with sincere hearts fully trusting him. For our guilty consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean*.'

Condemnation:
Romans 8:1 — *'There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.'*

Sickness:
1 Peter 2:24 — *'You were healed by his wounds.'*

Poverty:
2 Corinthians 9:8 — *'God is able to make all grace abound to you, that you, always having all sufficiency in everything, may abound to every good work.'*

Living at Your New Address

We don't automatically walk in the light just because we live there. It's possible to live in the light with a blindfold on, so what we still see is darkness. Remember Ephesians 5:8

tells us to — '*Walk as children of light*.' Darkness is the absence of light. If you switch a light on at nighttime, the room becomes full of light. If you turn it off, you're in darkness again. The significant thing is the light — whether it's on or off. Darkness can never overwhelm light, but light instantly gets rid of darkness. You can't banish darkness by telling it to go or shovelling it out or by asking God to take it away. You can only get rid of it by turning on the light.

Our bodies need light to stay healthy. We get vitamin D from sunlight and without it our health suffers physically. Similarly, if we don't live in the light of God's Word, we will suffer. We won't grow as Christians and mature in our faith. We will struggle and we won't see the blessings and promises of God in our lives.

Your address is the light, but are you thinking thoughts that belong to the darkness? What we do comes from how we think. Proverbs 4:23 (NIV) says – '*Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it*.' If we spend time thinking the way we used to think at our old address, we will eventually live as though we were still there. Hebrews 11:15 (NIV) says of Abraham and his family — '*If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return*.'

So how do we change the way we think? Our thoughts come from what we focus on. Romans 12:2 says – '*Don't be conformed to this world …*' 'This world' is another term for where we used to live. God tells us not to allow the world to shape us by its ideas and attitudes, so we need to be wise about what we watch, read and listen to and the

conversations we get involved in. If it's not good, it will affect the way we think adversely, which will then impact the way we live. 2 Corinthians 10:5 says we are to be — '*throwing down imaginations and every high thing that is exalted against the knowledge of God and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ*.' We can't stop thinking the way the world thinks by trying not to. We have to deliberately think good godly thoughts instead. Romans 10:17 says — '*faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*.' You don't find the Word of God at your old address of darkness. It is at your new address of light.

The rest of Romans 12:2 says — '… *but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what is the good, well-pleasing, and perfect will of God*.' God

tells us to renew our minds in His Word so that we start to think and speak and act the way He does, instead of the way the world does. As we continue to think thoughts that line up with the truth of God's Word, we will develop good patterns of thinking which will produce godly attitudes. God has done all that is necessary and provided everything we need to be transformed, but we have to take responsibility to renew our minds ourselves, so that His transformation can then take place. Jesus says in John 8:12 – "*I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the light of life*."

1 Thessalonians 5:5 says about those who believe — '*You are all children of light and children of the day. We don't belong to the night, nor to darkness*.' If you realise you've been thinking thoughts that belong to your

old address or are tempted to do so, turn the light of Jesus on. Get into the Word to renew your thoughts and be transformed. Thank God for all He's done for you through Jesus. Thank Him for all His promises and choose to expect to see them fulfilled. You will build a strong foundation of truth to stand on day by day and when trouble comes, your faith will not be shaken and you will overcome. Go forward focusing on the light, not looking back into darkness. Galatians 5:1 says — '*Stand firm therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and don't be entangled again with a yoke of bondage*.'

Your new address is the Kingdom of the light of Jesus. Colossians 1:12-13 tells us to be — '*giving thanks to the Father, who made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light, [13]who delivered us out of the*

power of darkness, and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of his love.' Praise God!

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Jesus bought us with a price and had us delivered
from our old address of darkness
to our new address of His light.
But sometimes we might be tempted to go back
and visit that old address.
Find out about your new address
and how you can make sure you live there
more and more.



Katherine Hilditch has been teaching in local churches for many years. In 2013 she wrote her first booklet and since then has written many more. She created her website to make all the booklets freely available to everyone. They can be read online or printed out. Katherine's threefold purpose is to help people understand more about Jesus and all He has done and won for them, to encourage them to go deeper in their relationship with God and to provide material to help them share their faith with others. To read her story and find all the booklets go to –

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