

1st Over All

Colossians

Week 5 – Reconciled Through Jesus Christ

Colossians 1:21-23

Purpose: Christians will gratefully worship God for His merciful work of salvation and reconciliation with Him through Jesus Christ; learning to live as reconciled people.

Call to Worship

Standing to Read

Colossians 1:21-23 ESV

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Prayer

Gracious and Merciful Father, we all were once alienated, hostile in our minds, and doing evil deeds. You had every right to punish us for our hostility and evil deeds, but you were gracious toward us and showed us mercy. You gave us faith, regenerated us, and led us to know our sins and to repent, that led to forgiveness. You have given us the Good News of Jesus Christ and caused us to believe. You have also commissioned us to take the Gospel and share it with people. Thank you for your Grace, Mercy, and salvation. Teach us today to live in the reconciliation you have given us.

Series Graphic (SLIDE 1)

Sermon

Opening Idea

There was a man who was known to harass believers of Jesus Christ. He actively pursued them and was effective in this work. He had permission from the religious leaders who were trying to stop the movement and to keep people from believing. This man was known to break up families, arrest women and children, and incarcerate anyone who followed Jesus Christ. This man even took part in killing a preacher. (Acts 9:1-15) Then, while on his way to the city of Damascus with permission to arrest anyone who believed in Jesus Christ, this man had a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ blinded the man and revealed where the man,

Saul, stood with God. God justified Saul, healed his sight, connected him to believers in Jesus Christ, and revealed to Saul what he was to do. The commission included preaching Jesus Christ to Gentiles, kings, and Israelites as well as revealing to Saul that he would suffer. A murderer and persecutor of Jesus Christ and His people was now commissioned to go into the world and preach about the Christ.

Saul would eventually have a new name to go along with his new identity. Paul, formerly Saul, had a personal testimony of God's work to save and reconcile and spent the rest of his life preaching to Gentiles, kings, and Israelites. Paul was a reconciled man and sent on mission!

Read

Colossians 1:21-23 ESV (SLIDE 2)

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22** he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Series Graphic (SLIDE 3)

Notes on Colossians 1:21-23

Life Before Christ (v. 21)

Having glorified Jesus Christ as the First Over All, Paul now writes to the saints. Paul reminds the saints that they were not saints. Christ is and always will be first over all and all saints were at one point at odds with God. Paul writes that they were enemies of God. It seems harsh to read that, but it is true. Paul writes that all saints were alienated, hostile, and their deeds and works were evil. Because the saint's heart was evil, their values, desires, thoughts, and works were evil. All saints were, at one time, rotten to their core with depraved evil. Being "hostile in mind" shows that our thoughts were not about God. It isn't that we are passive or just ignorant about God. It shows the depraved depth of our condition. Our thoughts were focused upon another God. That other god was our self. This is evidence that we were at one time enemies of God. We worshipped, served, glorified, and pursued one god. This was our great idol. Idol worship showed our guilty state and that we earned death. That was the way things used to be, praise God!!!

Christ's Effective Work (v. 22)

Paul reminds the saints of their former lives, not to shame them or condemn them, but to remind them of their new lives in Christ. The human situation is one that in our lack of pursuing God (Yahweh), we will pursue god (us). Therefore, Paul continuously exposes the selfish

tendencies of the flesh to worship an idol, namely themselves. Things are different now. The difference is due to what Jesus Christ has done. The creator and savior of creation has changed the situation for all of God's people. God's people were alienated, but now they are reconciled. What was needed for reconciliation to take place? Paul writes that it was through Jesus. It required a physical sacrifice to be given for God's people to be reconciled. More specifically, reconciliation happened through Jesus Christ's death. Jesus Christ's death relieved God's people of the sentence of death due to their sin and gave them life. Paul writes that Jesus Christ then took God's reconciled people and presented them before God. The presentation Paul writes about isn't bringing a guilty man before the ultimate judge for sentence of death. This presentation is escorting an innocent man, the son of the King, before the King. The reconciled saint stands before God, because of Jesus Christ's reconciling work, dedicated to God (belonging to Him) and without defect or blame (innocent). Paul finishes this idea of being brought before God by describing the person who stands before God as being one who no longer has any charges against them. There is no longer a warrant, a bounty, nor an order of execution. God's person has been pardoned and stands innocent before the perfect Judge.

Evidence of the Gospel Deposit (v. 23a)

The evidence for the world to see if a person has been given faith to believe, repented and been forgiven, and being reconciled to God is the person who perseveres. Paul writes that the ones who stand before God blameless and devoted to God are the people continuing to live by faith fully depending upon God. They are steady and firm having built their lives upon the foundation, corner stone, and capstone that is Jesus Christ. They do not follow the deceptions of the world and only place their hope and trust in Jesus, of whom they have heard of and believe. The person who believes in and lives through Jesus Christ is the one who shows that the gospel has been deposited into them and they belong to God.

The Gospel Made Known (v. 23b)

This Gospel that brought new life in reconciling God's people with God is powerful. It was not meant for one race or gender. Paul writes that the Gospel that saved them and gave them new life was not only for them. It has been made known and it is the same Good News that was shared with the disciples. The Good News shared at Mars Hill is the same as what was shared in Colossae. The universal aspect of the Gospel is that it is the same message. Those who heard the Gospel and believed are compelled to share it with others and as they believe, they also share.

Paul finishes this passage of the letter in writing that this Gospel was shared with him and he believes. He reveals that there is evidence of this work. Paul was a condemned man who had blood on his hands and deserved death. Through Christ, Paul is forgiven his evil ways and reconciled with God. He is set apart by God to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul writes that he is a servant. The word Paul uses here is Greek word "diakonos". He used this word earlier in this letter to describe himself and to describe Timothy. This isn't to denote an office or an official position, but to communicate that he is a servant carrying the message of the Master to places the

Master has determined. Where God sends Paul, Paul will go. When God speaks through Paul, Paul will record and send the message. Paul is a once condemned man who has been justified, forgiven, and is part of God's work to make the Good News of Jesus Christ known.

God Reconciled His People Through Jesus Christ (SLIDE 4)

You Were Once Under Wrath and Rejected (SLIDE 5)

A Foreigner

Enemy at War

Workman of Worthlessness

Christ Exchanged His Life for Yours (SLIDE 6)

Wrath for Peace

Rejection for Adoption

➡ **We are not being reconciled – We ARE Reconciled and Now We Are Learning to Live in our reconciled relationship United to God in Jesus Christ.**

We Will Live as Reconciled People (SLIDE 7)

Thankful for Forgiveness and Adoption

Seeking After and Living In Peace

Workers doing God's Good Works

Growing to Live in Reconciliation

Read

Ephesians 2:14-16 ESV (SLIDE 8)

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility **15** by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, **16** and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

Series Graphic (SLIDE 9)