



How can we be reconciled before a Holy God?

Through the blood of Jesus! No other way...We don't understand it, nor will we ever understand such love! God's love is beyond our comprehension!

The Study of Colossians, Lesson #5

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Colossians 1:17-23, “And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.”

- **That in all things He may have the preeminence:**
 - ✓ The fact of surpassing all others; superiority:
 - ✓ The quality of being superior. It's a type of high status or distinction for anything considered to be the best at something; The state of performing and providing acts and services with a “Spirit of Excellence.” In this case, eternal and consistent (without flaw).
 - ✓ This is a fitting summary of the verses found in [Colossians 1:15-18](#).
- **For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell:**
 - ✓ **Fullness:** Just another way to say that Jesus is truly God. “A recognized term in theology denoting the totality of the Divine powers and attributes.” (Lightfoot)
 - ✓ **Dwell** = Used here in the sense of a *permanent dwelling* (not a temporary dwelling). Emphasizing the idea that Jesus was not *temporarily* God, but is *permanently* God.

NOTE: The fullness is in Jesus Christ. Not in a church; not in a priesthood; not in a building; not in a sacrament; not in the saints; not in a method or a program, but in Jesus Christ Himself. It is in Him being the “distribution point” of the Good News (Gospel).

- **And by Him to reconcile all things to Himself:** Jesus’ atoning work is full and broad...for ALL who CHOOSE TO BE RECONCILED.
- **Through the blood of the cross:**
 - ✓ *We don’t make our own peace with God, but Jesus made peace for us through His work on the cross.*
 - ✓ *The **blood of the cross** speaks to us of the real, physical death of Jesus Christ in our place, on our behalf, before God.*
 - ✓ *That literal death in our place, and the literal judgment He bore on our behalf, is what saves us.*
- **Who once were alienated:** **alienated** literally means “transferred to another owner.” This transfer of ownership, from God to Satan and self, affected us in both mind and behavior.

IMPORTANT INFO: *Belonging to the race of Adam, we are born **alienated** from God. As individuals, we each choose to accept and embrace that alienation with our **wicked works**.*

HOWEVER... Once were alienated: *This means that in Jesus we are no longer **alienated**. The difference between a believer and a non-believer isn’t merely forgiveness; there is a complete change of status.*

- **Yet now He has reconciled:**
 - ✓ God’s answer to the problem of **alienation** is *reconciliation*, initiated by His work on the cross.
 - ✓ In the work of reconciliation, God didn’t meet us halfway. God meets us all the way and invites us to accept it.
- **To present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight:** This is the idea of presenting us **holy and blameless** before God as priests did when they inspected animals for potential sacrifices.

We are presented to God as a living sacrifice.

- **If indeed you continue in the faith:**
 - ✓ It is important for Christians to continue in godly conduct...but our salvation does not depend on our godly conduct.
 - ✓ Our conduct should give proof to us that we are saved!
 - ✓ Paul’s main focus is continuing in the *truth of the gospel* (**continue in the faith... not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard**).

Colossians 1:24-29, "I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily."

- Paul wrote this from a Roman jail. He was able to see that his **sufferings** worked something good for others. Paul was not doing it to build up his repertoire or his resume. He did it for "the glory of God."
- Paul followed in the footsteps of Jesus and was an "others-centered" person.
- Paul found holiness, spiritual growth, and maturity when he pursued these things for others.
- God put Paul into this position, he did not put himself.
- The particular **mystery** Paul is referring deals with:
 - ✓ The many aspects of the work of Jesus in His people;
 - ✓ Especially the plan of the church, to make one body out of Jew and Gentile, taken from the "trunk" of Israel, yet not Israel.
 - ✓ Remember, we are grafted into the *trunk/main branch (the root is God himself), See Romans 9-11.

*Abraham's seed. God established it as a promise

NOTE: "This is the crowning wonder to Paul that God had included the Gentiles in his redemptive grace." (Robertson)

- The Christian's **hope of glory** isn't our own hard work and devotion to God, or the power of our own spirituality; it is the abiding presence of Jesus: **Christ in you**. The Holy Spirit lives within us...doing the bidding of Jesus (Christ in you, the hope of glory).
- The focus of Paul's preaching. He didn't preach himself, his opinions, or lots of entertaining stories. He preached *Jesus*.

Warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom:

- The work of **warning** – or helping to impart understanding – was a passion for Paul in ministry ([Acts 20:31](#)).
- **Important:** It is also the job of church leaders ([1 Thessalonians 5:12](#)) and of the church body in general ([Colossians 3:16](#)), providing that they are *able* to admonish others in a way that encourages in lieu of causing friction (discouraging) for others on their journey home.

Paul's Message to the Colossian Church was a word of warning to the church in general. The "atta boys" had been presented. Now Paul must be the preacher, the teacher, and the one who steps-on-toes for God's sake and His sustaining authority:

Throughout the Word of God, there were Godly servants of God who "warned or reprimanded" someone/group/team firmly when they were off-base in their thinking and actions.

God did it with firmness of spirit; Jesus did it with fervor and unwavering truth.

We should do it only when we have been prompted by the Holy Spirit. This is "true wisdom."

Why should any warning or reprimand be given or brought to others' attention?

Answer: To help present every believer perfect in Christ Jesus.

Our world goes beyond our borders. In today's world, the world can watch our church services, communicate with individuals via different media resources and technological services. We must "present our bodies living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God...this is our reasonable service."

THEY SEE US...WHAT DO THEY SEE?



I See Jesus

Once a man named Steven preached about the Lord.

Folks were saved and folks were healed as they heard His Word.

Satan did not like it soon he had his crowd...And as he was tried they heard Steven cry aloud:

I see Jesus standing at the Father's right hand...I see Jesus over in the Promised Land.

Work is over now I'm coming to thee...I see Jesus standing waiting for me. As the stones fell on him beating out his life...Steven knew he'd soon be through with all toil and strife.

So much like the Master with a heart so true...He prayed Lord forgive them for they know not what they do.

Through the gates of glory down the streets of gold...Marched the hero of the Lord into heaven's fold.

When he met the Savior at the great white throne...I believed he smiled and said "Steven welcome home." Writer: Charles Wycuff.