

“The Work of Christ on Our Behalf”

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— 23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. Colossians 1:21-23

1. Paul reminds them of who they used to be. (The Bad News.) [🔗](#)

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. (1:21)

Paul uses three words to reveal their former outlook toward God.

- “Alienated,” refers to the historical understanding that at one time the Colossians had been outside the circle of God’s blessing; the covenantal blessing that God had had with the nation of Israel.

➤ They were completely out of harmony with God.

- “Enemies.” It is a strong word that occurs in Scripture to describe the contrast between God and those who do not do his will.

You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.” James 4:4

- “Mind.” This word is often translated to mean “heart” and it speaks to a person’s disposition towards God.

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of

the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Romans 1:20-21

These verses tell us that all of creation points to God. From creation ALL PEOPLE can know that God exists, and yet people refuse to acknowledge Him.

❖ Paul was intentionally reminding the believers at Colosse that at one time, prior to their salvation experience, they had been alienated from God and had been enemies in their minds because of their evil behavior.

This was their former condition and this was our former condition also.

Prior to our salvation experience, we were all far removed from God's blessings. We were all enemies of God in our minds as evidenced through our behavior and deeds.

2. Paul reminds them of who they are now. (The Good News) 😊

But now he (God) has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—"Colossians 1:22"

They were now reconciled back to God, not because of anything they had done, but because of what God had done for them.

It was because of God the Father's love for them that God sent Jesus Christ to die on the cross for them so that they could be reconciled back to God.

"It was God the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in God's kingdom. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in who we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Colossians 1:12

The Colossians (and us) owe our salvation to the initiative of God the Father in our lives and to the obedience of Jesus Christ, God's Son who died on the cross in our place.

➤ Thanks be to God, that by faith in Jesus Christ we can be reconciled back to God.

“Reconciled” Defined: • It is the opposite of their/our once desperate situation, which was once being God's enemy. • Reconciled means being restored, reinstated, in good standing, reunited, friends, at peace with God.

Reconciliation requires two parts:

➤ A physical sacrifice: Christ's physical body. ➤ A total sacrifice. It cost him everything

Flesh, blood, and death express the physical and total nature of Christ's sacrifice.

❖ Paul is emphasizing these truths so that the believers at Colossae hear again the “good news” regarding the gospel message that they had received. ❖ Paul is reminding them that they had once been alienated from God, that they had once been enemies of God in their minds, and that it should have been them on the cross. ❖ Paul is teaching all of us that because of the fallen nature of all of humanity due to the Fall in the Garden of Eden, we are all born under the penalty of death because through one man, Adam all were made sinners. ❖ Everyone born is born with a mind / heart attitude that is anti-God in our thinking. ❖ Everyone is born under the penalty of death. As we all know it was not an immediate physical death ...but it was an immediate spiritual death. ❖ And in that one act of disobedience, everyone since then was born a sinner. We are born with a spirit that is disconnected with God our creator.

Our minds have a natural tendency to want to do things contrary to the way that God desires us to be.

So it is that we were in need of a SAVIOR ... because the penalty of sin was death.

Jesus paid this penalty through his physical body, which he allowed to be nailed to cross until he died.

He did this SO THAT we could be reconciled back to God. He did this SO THAT he could present us "holy in God's sight, without blemish and free from accusation."

➤ The teaching on the "Supremacy of Christ" is central to our faith because it shows us how powerful the work was that Jesus Christ did on our behalf.

➤ Jesus Christ, the one who ranks high above all powers, dominions, principalities, the one who reigns high above all creation, nations, rulers, the visible and the invisible, he became like us.

➤ Jesus Christ, who was sinless, carried our sinfulness to the cross and fulfilled the righteous requirements of death so that he could conquer both SIN and DEATH on our behalf.

➤ Jesus Christ paid our penalty SO THAT we could be "presented holy in God's sight, without blemish and free from accusation."

This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant." Colossians 1:23