

Weekly Lesson Theme: Being An Authentic Church

Lesson Scriptures: Colossians 1:9-14, 21-29

Key Lesson Theme: "Growing In Christ"

Today's Lesson: Wednesday, April 24

Podcast Version: [Soundcloud](#), [iTunes](#), or [Spotify](#)

Colossians 1: 21-23

21 Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds as expressed in your evil actions.

22 But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him —

23 if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it.

Commentary

The act of being *reconciled* was introduced in verse 20. Reconciliation means "to bring back a former state of harmony; to live together in peace." In the New Testament sinful humankind is reconciled to God; God is not reconciled to us. We were the *alienated* ones who broke the harmonious relationship, not God. We were the *hostile* enemies, not God. As we shall see unfolded in subsequent verses, to be reconciled to God has implications for our relationship with others and even our view of ourselves. Our relationship with God is not one compartment of life; it is the essence of full life. Being in a right relationship with Him affects every dimension of life.

Paul's message to the Colossians was that they had already been reconciled so that as Christ presented them in the sight of God, they need

not fear judgment. They have been approved by God because they have come or been presented to Him by His Son; He stands by them.

“The theological matter concerns the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints. Paul taught that those who know the truth will continue in the truth. They will not fall away. Indeed, the personal commitments made at conversion naturally produce a positive, lifelong commitment to Jesus.”³ Even so, his words also served as a warning to not fall into the trap of believing the doctrine of false teachers that in any way—in part or in whole—perverted the truth of the gospel centered on Jesus Christ as the divine Son, the fullness of God.

Speaking of the *gospel*, he affirmed they had **heard** it. They *heard* it because it had been **proclaimed** to them. The gospel preached to them was the only one and true gospel that was consistently available and universally **proclaimed in all creation under heaven**.

What are a few lasting lessons that come from Colossians 1:21-23?

- Though we were alienated from and hostile toward God, in Christ we are reconciled to Him.
- Those who are reconciled to God will demonstrate it by living pure lives before Him and others.
- We are challenged to be grounded steadfast and sure in the gospel of Jesus Christ as a witness to the hope we have in Him.

Until tomorrow Saints...
Every day is Sunday