



Colossians: Jesus Over Everything

August 13 – Colossians 1:21-23

Section 1: Introduction

This week we're diving into the powerful verses of Colossians 1:21-23. As we explore this passage, it's important to understand the historical context in which Paul wrote this letter. The Colossian church was facing a significant challenge: the temptation to merge their Christian faith with the philosophies and practices of the surrounding Greco-Roman culture, as well as elements of Jewish mysticism and legalism.

As has already been noted, to counteract this temptation in the hearts and minds of the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul has been affirming the supremacy *and* preeminence of Christ over all things.

But in our verses this week, Colossians 1:21-23, Paul gets a bit more personal. He's not only neutralizing the Corinthians' syncretism by showcasing King Jesus, but he sets out to woo the Corinthians' hearts again by reminding them of how they've been personally impacted by Christ's work in the cross.

For Paul, obedience and service and love for Jesus comes not just because he is reigning over the cosmos and so "you better love him...whether you love him or not." Instead, Paul focuses in on how Christ's atoning sacrifice on the cross impacts you and me as individuals.

Read Colossians 1:15-23. Yes, verses 15 through 23.

Section 2: Walk slowly through your passage

Verse 21:

1. What's the main idea conveyed in this verse?
2. What do you notice about the language used in this verse? Who is being addressed, and what is their condition prior to reconciliation?
3. Are there any other passages in the Bible that speak about humanity's state of alienation from God?
 - How does Ephesians 2:1-7 relate?
 - How does Romans 5:10 relate?

Verse 22:

1. What is the main idea conveyed in this verse?
2. Reflect on the key terms used in this verse, such as "reconciled," "holy," and "blameless." What do these terms mean in the context of our relationship with God through Jesus Christ?
 - Consider Colossians 2:13-14 and 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 and their implications for those same questions. Write out your thoughts below.
3. Why is it significant that believers are presented as holy and blameless in God's sight? How does this concept of being presented as blameless relate to our salvation and eternal destiny?

Verse 23:

1. Finally, read Colossians 1:23 and pay attention to Paul's message in this verse. What is Paul's main point in this verse?
2. Consider his emphasis on continuing in faith, not shifting from the hope of the gospel. What does it mean to be "grounded and steadfast" in our faith?
3. How does Hebrews 3:12-14 expound on this idea of rootedness in the faith?

Section 3: Reflection questions

- In 3-5 sentences, summarize how Colossians 1:21-23 relates to Colossians 1:1-20.
- In what ways have you found yourself “alienated” from God and an enemy of God “in your mind?” What has that looked like for you?
- Reflect on the steadfastness of your faith. Are there times when you feel shaken or uncertain? How can you deepen your trust in God and remain firm in your commitment to follow Christ? What truths from these verses can help you do that?
- Consider the phrase "reconciled to God through Christ's physical body." What does this reveal about the depth of God's love and the significance of Jesus' sacrifice?

Section 4: Pray the Scriptures

Using Colossians 1:21-23, write out a prayer in response to what you've read OR use the prayer already constructed below to pray this passage.

[Sample prayer]

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the profound truth revealed in Colossians 1:21-23. Thank You for reconciling us to Yourself through the sacrifice of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Help me to fully comprehend the depth of Your love and the significance of my redemption. Grant me the strength and perseverance to remain steadfast in my faith, never wavering from the hope of the gospel. May Your Holy Spirit empower me to live blamelessly, rooted in the truth of Your Word.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Section 5: Memorize Scripture

Throughout this series, we want to be memorizing Scripture. Use the prompts below to help you get Colossians 1:21-23 into your heart and mind.

1. Write out the passage: Write down Colossians 1:21-23 in your journal or on a notecard.
2. Memorize Colossians 1:21-22. Using various techniques to memorize the passage, such as repeating it out loud, creating visual associations, or setting it to a melody or rhythm, take time to commit these verses to memory.
3. Review and practice: Regularly review the passage throughout the week. Recite it from memory and reflect on its meaning and significance.