

**Reconciled to God**  
**Colossians 1:19-23**  
**January 15, 2012**

**Introduction**

In the previous section, Paul talks about the Supremacy of Christ. He talks about Christ Jesus' deity. Paul also talks about Jesus Christ as the Creator and Sustainer of everything. He also talks about Christ being the head of the church. When we add all those qualities that Jesus had, we can only come to one conclusion: the Lord Jesus Christ is the only One who can save us. He is the only One who can fulfill God's demand for salvation. With that thought, Paul now turns to Jesus as the only One who can reconcile us to God.

**Colossians 1:19-23** *For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him,<sup>20</sup> and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.<sup>21</sup> Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.<sup>22</sup> 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—<sup>23</sup> 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.*

**I. Jesus the Reconciler (19-20, 22a)**

<sup>19</sup>*For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him,<sup>20</sup> and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross.<sup>22</sup> But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death....*

- It was the pleasure of God for the fullness to dwell in Christ
  - What is this fullness?
    - Is Paul talking about Jesus' Deity like **Colossians 2:9**?

**Colossians 2:9** *For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.*

- No, here Paul uses fullness as all the saving works of God in Christ

**John 1:16** *From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another.*

- He reconciled all things to Himself (on earth and in heaven)
  - All things—the universe

**Genesis 1:31** *God saw all that He had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning, the sixth day.*

- Sin ruined creation and heaven and earth became separated

**Genesis 3:17-18** *To Adam He said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat of it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.<sup>18</sup> It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.*

**Romans 8:22** *We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.*

**Note:** An amazing statement that Paul makes concerning the reconciliation of Christ to heaven. Jesus in His death will reconcile heaven and earth from which the fall of man has marred the universe, and He will place it under His feet. All the curses in Genesis 3 will be reversed!

- Reconciled universe—heaven and earth (**Isaiah 30:26; 60:19-20; 2 Peter 3:13; Rev 21:1**)
- How did Jesus accomplish this reconciliation?
  - His death on the cross

**Hebrews 9:22** *In fact, the law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*

**Leviticus 17:11** *For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.*

**Note:** Blood sacrifice was required—death for death. God required the animal sacrifices to be bled to death. It was because it was a picture of life being poured out. Justice demanded a life for life, death for death. We deserved to die because of sin, but Jesus was the perfect sacrifice and He poured out His life for us so we would not die and have life.

**Romans 8:3** *For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so He condemned sin in sinful man.*

**Romans 5:9** *Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him!*

**Transition:** Why should Jesus reconcile men to God?

## II. Purpose of Reconciliation (21)

<sup>21</sup>*Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.*

- Alienated from God
  - Separated from God

**Habakkuk 1:13** *Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.*

**Ephesians 2:2** *in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.*

**Note:** There two ways that men and God are separated. First, God separates Himself from man because they have sin. Second, man separates himself from God because he follows the world.

- Enemies
  - This can also mean hateful (“were hateful in your minds”)

**James 4:4** *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.*

- Evil behavior
  - They sin because they love sin...it is in their nature

**John 3:19** *This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.*

**Note:** There is no such thing as an innocent sinner. The Bible condemns them for their love of sin and their hatred of God

- The need for reconciliation—man cannot come to God in his sinful state.

**Transition:** How can man be reconciled to God? Through Jesus Christ and His death on the cross. How does death enable us to be reconciled to God?

## III. Goal of Reconciliation (22b)

<sup>22</sup>*to present you holy in His sight, without blemish and free from accusation*

**Romans 5:10** *For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!*

- We are reconciled to God only through Jesus Christ...nothing else.
- We have to be pure
- Through His death, we are

- Holy
- Without blemish
- Free from accusation

Prodigal Son (**Luke 15:11-24**)

#### IV. Evidence for Reconciliation (23)

<sup>23</sup> *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.*

- If
  - We believe “once saved, always saved”
  - Is this verse a contradiction?
  - No because Paul is talking to those who claim to be Christians—he is saying that you should show the fruits of faith if you are reconciled
- If you are indeed are reconciled, then you will continue in the faith (a positive affirmation)

**John 8:31** *To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.*

- The message of reconciliation

**2 Corinthians 5:17-20** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: <sup>19</sup>that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. <sup>20</sup>We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.*