

Now Hath He Reconciled

Colossians 1:21-23

FOCAL Read Responsively Colossians 1:21-29 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in [your] mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled (22) In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: (23) If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and [be] not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, [and] which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Prayer Lord Jesus, give me a deeper repentance, a horror of sin, a dread of its approach. Help me chastely to flee it and jealously to resolve that my heart shall be Thine alone. Give me a deeper trust, that I may lose myself to find myself in Thee, the ground of my rest, the spring of my being. Give me a deeper knowledge of Thyself as Saviour, Master, Lord, and King. Give me deeper power in private prayer, more sweetness in Thy Word, more steadfast grip on its truth. Give me deeper holiness in speech, thought, action, and let me not seek moral virtue apart from Thee. Plough deep in me, great Lord, heavenly husbandman, that my being may be a tilled field, the roots of grace spreading far and wide, until Thou alone art seen in me, Thy beauty golden like summer harvest, Thy fruitfulness as autumn plenty. I have no Master but Thee, no law but Thy will, no delight but Thyself, no wealth but that Thou givest, no good but that Thou blessest, no peace but that Thou bestowest. I am nothing but that Thou makest me. I have nothing but that I receive from Thee. I can be nothing but that grace adorns me. Quarry me

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deep, dear Lord, and then fill me to overflowing with living water. ¹

Illustrate & Introduce What is so “amazing” about God's “Amazing Grace”? Why wouldn't we be "amazed" at God's Grace? It is amazing that Someone like God would give His life for both you and me. Why would He, Infinite Creator, the One of which we sing:

**“Beautiful Savior, King of Creation,
Son of God and Son of Man,
Light of my soul, my joy, my crown.”**

decide to climb Calvary's Hill for such a sinner as I? Yet He did, shedding His Blood, surrendering His life in shame so that we who believe can one day stand in glory reconciled to God. "Amazing Grace" – no other words describes the sacrificial love of God such as these two do.

Have you been mocked and ridiculed by those closest to you in this life? Look at everything through the lens of His Grace. If you look at life and those around you with fleshly eyes you may fall into the pit of despair. Mankind is imperfect apart from His Grace. The life that has not experienced the fire of God's Grace is like poorly tempered metal, easily bent under the slightest load.

When the red flame of trials and temptations comes your way, turn to the Grace of God. Focus on Him when your friends and loved ones fail you. Focus on the Beloved Savior when the worst in life comes your way – and you will have strength to carry on. Do not focus on the walls

around you when the world and the worldly cast you into the pit. Look up, for there, dear One, is your redemption! Focus downward on darkness and despair, but upward on Jesus Christ your Savior and Lord - and believe!

Young Joseph was loved by his earthly father, and was given a wonderful and expensive coat. When Joseph went to show this gift to his brothers they ridiculed him and cast him into a pit, shortly selling him into slavery. When Joseph came to Egypt in bonds the ruler's wife unjustly accused him of attempted rape, and had her husband throw him into the deepest prison in the land. The eye of man would look at this and say, “How could this happen? God, don't you love me? Why am I continually being cast into the pits of life?” Joseph did not look at his betrayals through the eyes of man – he looked at them through the eyes of Grace. Joseph was tempered by "Amazing Grace". His life was hardened steel. Forged in the fires of Grace, stony trials did not dull him – they honed the edge of his faith. Joseph trusted the Lord, the “Friend Who sticketh closer than a brother” (**Proverbs 18:24**). Joseph's affection was on God. This is good medicine, Precious Believer, to **"Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. (3) For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God".(Colossians 3:2-3)**

Are you dead , and your life hid with Christ in God? Then God loves you, and you belong to Him. Do you believe that He will abandon the child that He purchased with His own Blood (**Acts 20:28**)? God forbid! Others may mock and doubt your value, but your Heavenly Father never will. He placed a call on your life the day

¹ From *Valley of Vision*, a collection of Puritan prayers. Online at <http://www.eternallifeministries.org/prayers.htm>

that He saved you by His Amazing Grace (**Acts 4:12**). If you look around you, you will only see the walls of the pit. If you stare at the darkness of the tunnel, you will never reach the light. Mount up on that beautiful stallion called Grace. Call upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. He will help you into Grace's saddle. Ride toward the Light. Trust the Lord Who saved you - He is not through with you yet.

A Christian Is Reconciled

FOCAL ^{KJV} Colossians 1:21 And you, that were sometime **alienated² and enemies³ in [your] mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled**

Every Christian who ever was and ever will be was – at one time – **alienated and enemies in our minds by wicked works**. The word **alienated** is a Greek word, *παλλοτριώω*, *apallotriōō*, (pronounced *ap-al-lot-ree-o'-o*) , which means “**to be permanently separated from [God]**”. You were **adversaries** of God, whether you knew this or not. You might have thought yourself to be perfect, but you were only perfect in that you *continually*

KJV All texts are King James Version (Authorized) unless otherwise noted

2 Perfect Passive Participle of G526, *ἀπαλλοτριώω*, *apallotriōō*, (pronounced *ap-al-lot-ree-o'-o*), From G575 and a derivative of G245; to *estrangle away*, that is, (passively and figuratively) to *be non participant*: - alienate, be alien.

3 G2190, *ἐχθρός*, *echthros*, (pronounced *ekh-thros'*), From a primary word *ἐχθω* *echthō* (to *hate*); *hateful* (passively *odious*, or actively *hostile*); usually as a noun, an *adversary* (especially *Satan*): - enemy, foe.

fell short of God's righteousness. You were described in the Scripture that said:

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

You came short – you always came short. You could not measure up to the absolute perfection that God requires. Maybe you tried hard, maybe you didn't – but you still failed to measure up to God's standards. This made you an enemy to God, continually alienated from Him. Now, you may be asking yourselves - “Where's the beautiful truth in this verse?” Remember, I said that our text today begins with a beautiful truth. The beauty, dear one, is not in the disease we had, but the *cure*. Look at the next verse:

FOCAL Colossians 1:21b-22 **...yet now hath He reconciled⁴, {22} In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:**

We love the Holy Scriptures, though at times we hate the *conventions* that have been placed on them. The original text of Holy Writ has *no chapter and verse divisions whatsoever* – these were added by man for point of reference and ease of use. Why the translators started

4 Aorist Active Indicative of G604, *ἀποκατάλλασσω*, *apokatallassō*, (pronounced *ap-ok-at-al-las'-so*), From G575 and G2644; to *reconcile fully*: - reconcile.

verse 22 at in the body of His flesh is a mystery, for they divided the thought that the Lord presents to us. We were **permanently separated from God and enemies in our wicked works**. This was a **permanent and total separation**, and we could do absolutely nothing about this. Then God made a way. The text says (minus the man made verse division):

... “yet now hath He (God) reconciled in the body of His flesh through death” ...

We were enemies – eternally enemies – then the Eternal God stepped down from Heaven to **offer reconciliation to us**. God the Father used the death of Christ to **reconcile** us to Him. He Who is forever perfect took on Himself the *imperfection of sin*, not by His own sin, but by the penalty of our sins being placed on Him. The Father ...

2 Corinthians 5:21^{KJV} ... hath made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

What does reconciliation do for the Christian?

If Reconciled To God, I Am Holy

FOCAL Colossians 1:21b-22 ...yet now hath He reconciled, {22} **In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy** and unblameable and unproveable **in his sight:**

The Christian *is* holy in God's sight, so the Christian – saved by Grace – should strive to *walk* holy in His sight as well. Because the Eternal God came into the temporal to save us and make this an *accomplished fact*, we who are saved should want to look beyond the temporal and serve our Eternal Savior. We who are saved are *holy* – not *will be holy* but *are holy in His sight*. When God looks at the Christian He sees someone for whom He shed His Blood for. God sees a Son of God by faith in Christ Jesus. God told the Ancient Israelite:

Leviticus 20:7-8^{KJV} Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I [am] the LORD your God. (8) And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I [am] the LORD which sanctify you.

God called the Israelite out of Egyptian bondage. He protected them from all enemies. He fed them in the wilderness, loved them, cared for them. They were a people *reserved unto Himself* – therefore God required that they remember this and follow Him.

You are **holy**, dear believer. You are **holy** because the Blood of God was shed for you. You are **holy, set apart for God's own use**. You are His *purchased possession* – and you are therefore to serve Him with all your hearts.

The devil will offer many opportunities for we who are Christians to follow the pathway of the world. **We are holy in God's sight** – God gave up everything to

reconcile us to Him. We need to see everything that happens in our lives through the lens of God's reconciling power. You are **reconciled by God, therefore you are holy to God**. The devil will offer you many things, dear One, but if you are God's and **reconciled to Him through His Son Jesus Christ** then you *must* walk holy unto Him.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was tempted in the wilderness by Satan. We read:

Matthew 4:8-9 Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; (9) And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

What Satan did with Jesus is the same thing that He does to every Christian every day. We are confronted by Him and by the world, given a choice - "wilt thou follow the fallen angel of darkness or the Son of Light?" Our Lord Jesus answered this depraved creature by saying:

Matthew 4:10 ... Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Choose well, believer, choose well. You belong to God if you are saved by faith in Christ – do not follow the conventions of this world. Be IN the world, but not OF

the world. Let Christ influence every facet of your lives.

The **Prophet Moses**, considered one of the greatest of all prophets according to the Word of God, **failed to obey God** at both the **beginning and end of his ministry**. At the beginning Moses failed to **circumcise his child according to the command of God (Exodus 4:24-26)** and nearly lost the child because of it. At the end of his ministry Moses **struck the Rock rather than speaking to it at Meribah (Numbers 20:10-13)** – and lost the Promised Land and ultimately his life because of this. Listen, dear Ones – if you belong to God, you are to be holy, set apart for His use. **Be ye holy, for I am holy says He whose Name is Holy (Isaiah 57:15)**. That great preacher **C.H. Spurgeon** said⁵:

An unholy Church! it is of no use to the world, and of no esteem among men. Oh! it is an abomination, hell's laughter, heaven's abhorrence. And the larger the Church, the more influential, the worse nuisance does it become, when it becomes dead and unholy. The worst evils which have ever come upon the world, have been brought upon her by an unholy Church. Whence came the darkness of the dark ages? From the Church of Rome. And if we want to see the world again sitting in Egyptian darkness, bound with fetters of iron, we have only to give up the faith, and to renounce holiness of life, and we may drag the world down again to the limbo of superstition, and bind her fast in chains of ignorance and vice. O Christian, the vows of God are upon you. You are

⁵ In his sermon *Faith and Life*, DELIVERED ON SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 24TH, 1864, AT THE METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE, NEWINGTON.

God's priest: act as such. You are God's king: reign over your lusts. You are God's chosen: do not associate with Belial. Heaven is your portion; live like a heavenly spirit, so shall you prove that you have time true faith; but except ye do this, your end shall be to lift up your eyes in hell, and find yourself mistaken when it will be too late to seek or find a remedy.

If Reconciled To God, I Am Unblameable

FOCAL Colossians 1:21b-22 ...yet now hath He reconciled, {22} In the body of his flesh through death, **to present you** holy and **unblameable**⁶ and **unreprovable**⁷ **in his sight:**

The word we translate **unblameable** is the Greek ἄμωμος, amōmos, (pronounced *am'-o-mos*), which means “**without spot, without blemish, faultless, without blame**”. The Christian is *not sinless* but he or she is *without spot or blemish* in the eyes of God. In God's eyes *you are perfect* because of Christ.

Does this mean that we *should not strive* for God? Absolutely not! Our context tells us:

FOCAL Colossians 1:23 **If ye continue in the**

6 G299, ἄμωμος, amōmos, (pronounced *am'-o-mos*), From G1 (as a negative particle) and G3470; *unblemished* (literally or figuratively): - without blame (blemish, fault, spot), faultless, unblameable.

7 G410, ἀνέγκλητος, anegklētos, *an-eng'-klay-tos*, From G1 (as a negative particle) and a derivative of G1458; *unaccused*, that is, (by implication) *irreproachable*: - blameless.

faith grounded and settled, and [be] not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, [and] which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

If you have been saved, changed, *born again* by faith in Christ and through the power of the Spirit, then that *inward* change will always impress the *outward* life. Our Lord Jesus Christ condemned the *religious crowd* in His day because they *changed the outward* but not the inward. He told them:

Matthew 23:27-28 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead [men's] bones, and of all uncleanness. (28) Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

The outside may look good, but **God looketh on the heart (Matthew 22:37)**. If your heart is right with God, your life will prove it by the way you live it. Our Lord Jesus told us:

Matthew 7:17-18 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. (18) A good

tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither [can] a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Illustrate Can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit? Jesus said “no”, for God inspects the fruit. It is true that an apple tree eaten at the core with worms like sin may, for a time, produce dwarfed and shriveled fruit. You may even get a bit of meat from these poor offerings for a time before corruption proves itself. Yet, in time, the con artist who professes Christ as Savior and yet does not have Him within his own soul will fail the test. Time is the test for the Christian. The Christian *perseveres* in his faith *at all times*. The Christian, like the holiest place in the Temple of God, has Christ inside him. You may stand on earth and holding up your hand, block the sun from your eyes, but your hand cannot block the sun from the earth itself. If God is in you, God will continue to work through you, no matter what may come.

If you do not persevere in the faith, then you are not one of God's own! This is the IF of **verse 23**. This is what text says:

FOCAL Colossians 1:23 **If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and [be] not moved away from the hope of the gospel ...**

Another text puts it this way:

1 John 2:18-20 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now

are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. (19) They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would [no doubt] have continued with us: but [they went out], that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. (20) But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

You persevered with us and with Christ – perseverance proves the Saint. Those who departed, who like the **“dog [is] turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire” (2 Peter 2:22)**, have proven themselves to be of the world and not of God. If you are of God, you persevere in the Gospel of Christ. If you are of God, you are changed from the inside out. The worms of sin are not at your core, eating away at you, keeping you from God. You are attached to Jesus as **branch to vine (John 15:5)**, and the good Spirit of God flows through you from Him.

The Christian is **unblameable, without spot or blemish** because he belongs to God. No parent ever looks at their child and calls it ugly. The child is lovely because *love filled eyes see it*. When the Father looks at you or I, if we be in Christ, He sees a child for whom Christ died, for whom the Blood was shed. You belong to God, little children, if you have believed on Jesus Christ. The Father chose us **in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame**

before Him in love (Ephesians 1:4). The eyes of the **Father** looks over the Christian, not the eyes of the **Judge**. We are before Him **in love**. I, like many of you, have failed our Father many times. Yet because I am His I, like the prodigal, return to His arms knowing that He loves me, for He gave Himself for me. One day all sin will be filtered from our lives when we stand with Him in glory (**Ephesians 5:27**), **not having spot or blemish or any such thing**. Until that time I will not justify sin in my life (nor in yours), but I will trust and love the Lord with all my heart. When I foolishly sin I will confess that sin to Him (**1 John 1:9**), relying on the precious Blood of Christ (**1 Peter 1:19**) and on the everlasting love of the Father.

Reconciliation Makes The Christian Unaccused

FOCAL Colossians 1:21b-22 ...yet now hath He reconciled, {22} In the body of his flesh through death, **to present you holy and unblameable⁸ and unproveable⁹ in his sight:**

The last major word in our text, **unproveable**, is a Greek word ,*ἀνέγκλητος*, anegklētos, (pronounced *an-eng'-klay-tos*), which means **to be unaccused**. When we sin two stand in the dock to accuse us – our own conscience, and Satan *the accuser of the brethren*.

8 G299, *ἄμωμος*, amōmos, (pronounced *am'-o-mos*), From G1 (as a negative particle) and G3470; *unblemished* (literally or figuratively): - without blame (blemish, fault, spot), faultless, unblameable.

9 G410, *ἀνέγκλητος*, anegklētos, (pronounced *an-eng'-klay-tos*), From G1 (as a negative particle) and a derivative of G1458; *unaccused*, that is, (by implication) *irreproachable*: - blameless.

Sometimes *three* stand in that dock – my conscience, Satan, and *other misguided people*. Many times people will judge us so as to make themselves feel better or bigger. For instance, the Corinthian believers had fallen into the most grievous of sins. Rather than repent of their sins, they spent their time judging the Apostle Paul. The Apostle said:

1 Corinthians 4:3-5 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self. (4) For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord. (5) Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

We should judge our lives through the Spirit and the Written Word of God. This should be the standard that we always use. **It is the Lord Who judges us**. We no longer belong to this world, but if we are in Christ, we **belong to God**.

The **Accuser of the Brethren or his agents** may come to you and tell you how useless, ineffective, sinful, or powerless you are. Do not heed him. **He that judgeth me is the Lord**. The Word of God must be our standard. Hear Him, not the whispers of the world.

My whole life people have told me what I can and cannot do – perhaps they have done the same to you. I must remember **He that judges me is the Lord**. What has God said, what has God taught in this Word? Heed Him!

May God touch your hearts with these words.



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