

## Colossians

### Lesson 21

Col 1:20-22 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. 21 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 unreprieveable in his sight:

#### I. Our Problem

a. After establishing the Deity of Christ Paul goes on to layout Christ's ministry of **reconciliation**.

b. We are by virtue of our fallen-ness in Adam, the **enemies** of God and therefore alienated from Him. V21 Rom 8:7

c. Not only are we guilty because of the sin of Adam, but we also have our own record of **wicked works**. V21 Rom 3:23

d. To understand the gravity of our situation we must comprehend God's system of **justice**. Ps 50:6, John 5:22

#### II. God's System Of Justice

a. God is our Creator; He has **authority** over us and He is Holy, Righteous, Just, and yet merciful. Ps 7:9

b. He has established that each sin creates a **debt** to Him that must be paid. Ps 51:3-4; Matt 18:23-35

c. Until that debt is paid the sinner is at enmity with God. Each sin requires full and complete **atonement**. God's Justice demands this. Matt 5:26

d. God can not violate His Justice in order to be merciful, that would be **injustice**. Hab 1:12-13

e. Reconciliation can only occur when God's Justice is fully **satisfied**. Isa 53:11

f. The sinner needs a means of reconciliation. It is by **grace** that God mercifully provides that means for reconciliation to take place. Eph 2:8

#### III. God's Solution

a. Because He was God, Christ lived a sinless and perfect life before the Father but that was not in itself **sufficient** to deliver anyone from the penalty of sin. Heb 4:15;

b. Living a pure and perfect life is only one part of the equation. For atonement to take place the full and complete **payment** for sin is required. Heb 9:22

c. With sin propitiated by the blood of Christ, the way is now clear for **reconciliation** to take place. 2 Cor 5:18 What if no one came to Christ to receive forgiveness?

d. Something has to transpire to **bring** the sinner to Christ so that God's solution to man's sin problem could be administered to prevent Christ's death from being in vain. Rom 8:28-30

e. By grace, God chose out of all humanity **some** who would come to Christ and be reconciled. John 6:37 cp John 5:39-40

f. Those whom He has chosen, He calls and they respond because His Spirit gives them life; eyes with which to see the Kingdom of God; and ears that hear **His voice**. John 10:27

#### IV. Christ's Reconciliation

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- a. The atonement is so complete that we are presented in Heaven as **unblamable** Col 1:22
- b. It is not that we in ourselves will not be deserving of blame, but that we will be purified from our sins by the **merits of Christ**. 1 Peter 1:19; He 9:14
- c. We are described as "**spotless**, without blemish;" because of our identity in Christ. Eph 1:4; 5:27; Rev 14:5.
- d. We are said to be irreproachable, that is, one who gives no ground for **prosecution**. That is the work of justification. It is imputed to us not worked into us. Col 1:22
- e. God is "**just**" because His holy standard of perfect righteousness has been fulfilled in Christ, and He is the "justifier," because this righteousness is freely given to the believer Rom 3:26; 5:16.

#### V. Application

1. Do you know that you are reconciled to God? If so, what is the evidence?
2. Contemplate the debt you owed to God. How long would it take for you to pay it?
3. Ponder the Justice of God. Contrast God's Justice with man's justice.
4. One's gratitude for salvation is demonstrated by living a life in submission to Christ. How are you doing?