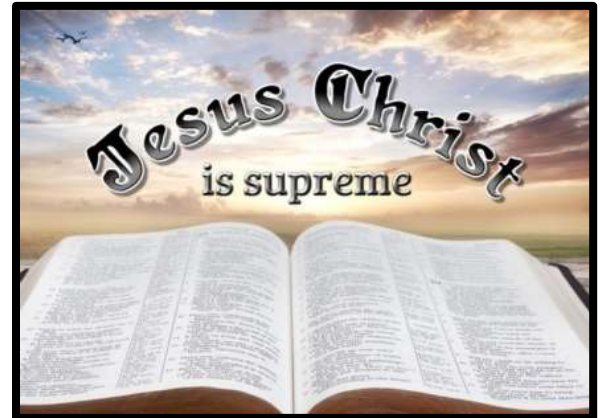


Reconciliation Accomplished and Applied - Colossians 1:21-23

Pastor Adam Hall ☞ Dryden First Baptist Church ☞ Dec 5, 2021

Colossians 1:21-23 ESV

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.



Introduction

- have you ever seen an athlete in a race who is in the lead and then he looks back and that hesitation of looking back, costs him the race?
- he should have been looking forward, towards the finish line, but he got distracted and ends up not finishing as well as he could have

Hannah Hartzell, in her article called, “Don’t Look Back”, reminds us of why we should not look back while running a race!

I’ve run enough races to know why, in 99 percent of racing situations, looking back is not a smart idea. Why? Because it signals a negative shift in the mindset of an athlete. When a runner looks backwards, it is typically because they are afraid someone is catching up with them. They are no longer running to win: they’re running to avoid losing.

What seems like a minor choice can actually have a huge impact on the rest of your race. Think about it: If you look back and see a runner closing in on you, your confidence will be shaken. On the flip side, if you look back and see no one, it might provide momentary comfort, but you’ll soon feel even more paranoid. You’ll want to keep looking back. Your mind will increasingly focus on how to avoid losing instead of how to win.

The next time you are in a race and begin to worry about how you are doing, resist the urge to look over your shoulder. As you run, fix your eyes on a runner ahead of you. This will help keep your mind engaged and focused on winning instead of losing. It will help you give your very best.

- I do not know how many will find this running advice useful, but this helps us illustrate an important biblical truth
- we can look back at what we “were” before we experienced Jesus Christ
- we will see that we were truly “alienated, hostile in mind and doing evil deeds” (Col 1:21)
- but looking back really does not help us
- we might get struck by guilt, anger, resentment and even sadness
- we cannot change what we have done in the past

- but when we look forward to the finish line we see Jesus Christ
- when we look forward we see the beauty and the grace of Jesus Christ
- when we look forward we see the wonderful work of the Lord Jesus Christ and we are changed
- because of Christ and His work on the Cross, Christians can truly say, "I know I am not what I ought to be, but thank you Jesus, I am not what I used to be"
- I know that thinking about the past can bring us down and discourage us, but let us look forward to the great grace of Jesus Christ and the hope of the gospel!

Review from last Sunday:

- Colossians 1:21-23 follows the great _____ about the Lord Jesus Christ in Colossians 1:15-20
This hymn teaches us _____ clear things about the Lord Jesus Christ

- 1) Jesus is Supreme Over _____
 - Jesus is the eternal all powerful creator of the universe
- 2) Jesus is Supreme Over the _____
 - Jesus is the head of the church which means that He has saved those in the church and is their personal Lord or boss
- 3) Jesus is Supreme Over _____
 - Salvation is found in no one else other than Jesus Christ
 - Jesus has brought reconciliation about by means of His death upon the Cross
 - after Paul writes this great hymn found in Colossians 1:15-20, he then applies this idea of _____ to the Colossian church

- you could say that Colossians 1:15-20 is a _____ point sermon in a _____ and Colossians 1:21-23 is the application to the sermon!
- Paul has established that Jesus is Supreme over salvation and now we will see how that Salvation is applied to the _____ of Christians in Colossians 1:21-23

Outline

1) (1:21) 3 Realities Apart from Christ

2) (1:22) 3 Realities in Christ

3) (1:23) 3 Responses to Christ

1) (1:21) 3 Realities _____ from Christ

And you, who once were

- Colossians 1:21 starts out with the phrase "once were" and when we look to Colossians 1:22 we read the "_____ now"
- Paul is contrasting what they were in the _____ (Colossians 1:21) with the reality of what they are _____ because of Christ(Colossians 1:22)
- Paul uses this contrast of "_____ Christ" and "_____ Christ" many times in his letters!
- this is one of the ways that Paul highlights the _____ work of the Lord Jesus
- let us look at a few examples:
- the Ephesian Christians were once _____ off but now they are brought near

Ephesians 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were _____ off have been brought _____ by the blood of Christ.

- the Ephesian Christians were darkness, but now they belong to the _____

Ephesians 5:8 for at one time you were darkness, _____ now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

- Paul reminds Titus that all people are _____, disobedient, led astray, slaves and the horrible list of sins goes on

- but God visits sinners and _____ them by His grace

Titus 3:3-5 For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he _____ us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

- the Christians who received Peter's first _____ were once not a people, but because of the grace of God, they were adopted into the family of God

1 Peter 2:10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received _____.

- this _____ of "before Christ" and "after Christ" by Paul truly does highlight the grace and _____ of Christ given to people who do not deserve God's grace!

alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,

- Paul speaks about _____ realities of their previous life "before Christ"

1) they were alienated 2) they were hostile in mind 3) they were doing evil deeds

1) they were alienated

-this word "alienated" can also be translated "estranged"

- we are all too familiar with this "estranged" word, because we have at least one estranged relative that family members do not want to associate with

- one thing is for sure, you _____ chose who your family members are

- we all have at least one family member that we wish would change their last name so nobody would connect them to us

- we all have had to deal with the awkward question from people when they ask "are you related to that person" and because we are Christian we all know we cannot lie

- such a relative that you wish to _____ is definitely an "estranged" relative

- this estranged relative is _____ our "before Christ" life

- we are estranged and this means that we are _____ of a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ

- we do not _____ to the people of God

- Paul uses this word _____ other times in Ephesians and this helps us understand this word much better!

Ephesians 2:12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and _____ to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Ephesians 4:18 They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their _____ of heart.

- this "before Christ" life is a serious situation
- we are separated from Jesus Christ, we do not _____ to the family of God
- we are separated from the life that God _____ us through Jesus Christ

2) they were hostile in mind

- this phrase can also be translated "enemies in _____"
- this word "hostile" has the idea of hatred and being at _____ with someone

- now when many hear that a person can be an _____ of God they reject this idea outright
- they cannot imagine _____ having enemies because they see God as *Love* and they do not understand that God's love is a holy _____

- those who are _____ of Jesus Christ and who have _____ Jesus Christ are enemies of God
- Paul makes this bold claim in the book of Romans

Romans 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are _____, shall we be saved by his life.

- many people are _____ towards God or are enemies of God because they love their _____ and their sin puts them at odds with the Lord who is _____!

3) they were doing evil deeds

- maybe you have heard the phrase "stupid is as stupid does"
- but we can make this phrase biblical
- we can say, "sinful is as sinful does"
- this means that if we are 1) _____ of Jesus Christ and 2) _____ towards God then we will 3) live out sinful lives thus we will _____ evil deeds

- evil is not defined by how society describes _____, because our Canadian Culture is pretty consistent with calling evil = good and good = evil
- our Canadian culture is also very good at just ignoring _____ altogether because there are many people who think that evil does not exist
- these people _____ if something is evil for you that does not mean it is evil for _____
- but evil is defined by God's _____ in His Word

- evil deeds are committed any time that we _____ the Lord's commands – we call these sins of commission
- there are times we _____ to do the commands of the Lord, those are what we call sins of omission

- the 10 commandments, found in Exodus ___ and Deuteronomy 5, give us clear direction on what is evil and what is not evil

2) (1:22) 3 Realities in Christ

he has (but) now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death,

- the Colossians had committed evil _____ (Colossians 1:21) but now there was a new reality for them
- for some reason the ESV has removed "BUT" from this verse which is an oversight on their part
- it _____ read "yet now" or "but now" like many of the other English translations

- "but now" Jesus has reconciled _____ to God!
- Paul has already mentioned reconciliation in Colossians 1:20

Colossians 1:20 and through him to reconcile to _____ all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

- reconciliation is bringing _____ between two parties that are at odds
- Jesus, by means of His death upon the Cross, _____ sinful humans to God
- _____ human being, because of their sin and rebellion against God, has created _____ between themselves and God

- Jesus died in his "body of flesh"
- this phrase uses three important words "body", "flesh" and "death"
- by the use of these three words Paul is emphasizing the penal substitution of _____ Christ
- death on the _____ caused not only physical suffering for Jesus but also extreme suffering because He bore the _____ of God for all the sin of the world
- Jesus on the Cross takes our sin, _____ the wrath of God for us and then gives us _____, grace and righteousness!
- this is a wonderful _____ to us!

in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

- because of the _____ of the Lord Jesus on the Cross on our behalf we now have 3 realities that are in _____ to our previous sinful life!
- we are presented to God as 1) holy 2) blameless 3) above reproach

1) Holy

- holy means to be set _____ or to be without sin
- but we as humans have _____ very much
- but this is the beauty of the Lord Jesus Christ
- because of Jesus Christ and His death we are _____ to God as pure and holy
- the sins that we have committed have been _____ and wiped away

2) Blameless

- blameless means to be without blemish or _____ defect
- this word is used in the _____ Testament to speak of the type of animal that was to be offered to the _____ as a sacrifice
- in the context here, it refers to being _____ blameless before the Lord

- although we have much sin, through Jesus Christ we are declared _____

3) Above reproach

- to be above reproach is very similar to being blameless

- this means that no one can _____ an accusation against you

- because of the _____ of Christ, no one can say of the Christian that they are _____ forgiven

- Christ has accomplished His _____ and it is finished!

- to make things very simple, humans have acted in _____ in their thoughts, attitudes and actions, but _____ of Jesus Christ there is cleansing from sin!

3) (1:23) 3 Responses to Christ

if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard,

- Paul calls the Colossians, and us, to respond to this _____ in three ways!

1) Continue in the faith

- this means that you _____ in the Lord Jesus Christ

- this means that you persevere in the Lord Jesus Christ and in His _____

- the grace of God _____ us and the grace of God allows us and empowers us to _____ in the Lord Jesus Christ

2) be stable and steadfast

- this has the imagery of a _____ that is immovable

- when you think of this building it does not move

- Dryden 1st Baptist _____, the building, is not going to move because it is _____ and steadfast

- we are called to remain _____ and established in the Lord Jesus Christ

3) not shifting from the hope of the gospel

- we are called not to _____ from the hope of the gospel

- Jesus gives us the _____ of eternal life

- Paul reminds us again of the hope stored up for the believer in _____ (Colossians 1:5)

which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

- this gospel has been proclaimed in _____ creation

- this goes back to Colossians 1:6 where Paul says that this gospel is _____ and increasing in the whole world

-the gospel has _____ to the whole Mediterranean area

- Paul has become a minister or Paul has become a _____ for the gospel

- He serves Jesus Christ by preaching the _____!

Application

1) Before Christ

- I had a close friend in High School whom the Lord used to _____ me to Jesus Christ

- the line that he said that I will never _____ was, "not only is total depravity found clear in the pages of scripture, it is clearly evident in my life"

- that is a confession of someone who _____ they need Jesus Christ

- do you remember what Jeremiah recorded about the Ethiopian and the leopard?

Jeremiah 13:23 NIV Can an Ethiopian _____ his skin or a leopard its spots?

Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil.

- do you remember what Jeremiah said about our hearts?

Jeremiah 17:9 The _____ is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?

- do you remember what David said about our _____ condition that is even evident at birth?

Psalms 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in _____ did my mother conceive me.

Psalms 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go _____ from birth, speaking lies.

- Jeremiah and the Psalms teach us that we have sinned from _____ and we are in deep trouble

- to bring things back to DC or Marvel Comics, we are super villains

- we, _____ from the grace of Jesus Christ, are lost sinners!

- if you are _____ of Jesus Christ, do you see yourself as super sinner in the eyes of God or are you trying to justify your sin by thinking that your sin against God is no big _____?

- if you are outside of Jesus Christ are you downplaying your sin by _____ yourself to extremely wicked people like Hitler?

- do you think, that in comparison to Hitler, I am _____ not that bad?

- all our hearts are desperately _____ and we need Jesus Christ to change our _____?

- if you are burdened and _____ by your sin, stay in the shame of your sin no longer but _____ Christ and his work of reconciliation

- if you are a Christian do not let your sin of the _____ beat you down

- _____ looking back like the runner who looks back and loses focus instead look forward to the Lord Jesus Christ

2) Because of Christ

- as believers we can often struggle with _____

- how many times have you been beaten down by past _____ actions -- either committed before you were a Christian or even committed _____ you were a Christian

- Satan even _____ us to feel guilty for what we have done

- even society tries to shame us into feeling _____ for our sins

- Jesus Christ and his work of _____ is the _____ for our guilt

- Hear this wonderful passage concerning the _____ of Christ in 1 John!

1 John 2:1-2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ² He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the _____ world.

- when you are beat down by your sin, _____ to Jesus and hey even remember this song that is based on the Word of God with regards to struggling with sin, "Before The _____ Of God Above"
*When Satan _____ me to despair And tells me of the guilt within
 Upward I look, and see Him there Who made an end of all my sin
 Because a sinless Savior died My sinful soul is counted free
 For God, the Just, is satisfied To look on Him and pardon me
 To look on Him and pardon me*
- if you are outside Christ, know that you are _____ in your sins
- you are still alienated, hostile in your mind towards God and committing wickedness in the eyes of God
- come to Jesus Christ by _____
- put your _____ in Christ Jesus to cleanse you from all your sin
- _____ out to Jesus and ask for mercy
- Jesus will _____ you before the Lord as holy and blameless and above reproach before the Father!

3) Be Diligent in Christ

- I heard two Christians talking about society’s definition of what a _____ is. They talked about the difference between a “practicing Christian” and a “devout Christian”
- they were talking about how the phrase “_____ Christian” means nothing these days – you can basically do _____ you want and still call yourself a devout Christian
- but yet they talked about “practicing Christians” and how this means you are actually _____ Jesus. This has a different emphasis. If you are following Jesus you have acknowledged your sin and you are _____ Jesus, you are practising what the Word of God says and _____ out the work of Word of God.
- Paul calls the Colossian church in Colossians 1:23 to ____ “practicing Christians”
- he calls them to _____ in the faith -- to persevere in the faith
- he calls them to be _____ and steadfast in Jesus Christ just like the solid building
- he calls them not _____ from the hope of the gospel
- we have seen a lot of Christians shifting lately in the church in North America
- we must seek to _____ ourselves of the grace of Christ and live in the _____ of the Holy Spirit to remain in and persevere in Christ!

NEXT SUNDAY ...
 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE #1

NOTICE:
 WORSHIP SERVICE TIME WILL
 CHANGE TO 10:30AM
 STARTING JANUARY 2, 2022