

No more Chains Pt 2

Colossians 1:21-29

- Paul has just given the church “**the truth about Jesus**” answering the falsehood being spread throughout the region and taught in the church that Jesus was an elevated created being, and although being above humanity was not fully God and therefore wasn’t worthy of our worship and total obedience. Paul declares that not only was Jesus not created but that He was “**The Creator**” and that everything in the entire universe exists for Him and because of Him.
- That besides being the “**Lord of the universe**” He’s also “**The Head of the Church**”, the source from which all things flow, and how at the cross it once pleased the Father to “**bruise Him**”, for our sake, now it pleases the Father that in Him all the “**fullness of God**” should dwell > meaning all God’s Divine power-Godly attributes were displayed to us by Jesus, and everything that we need to know about the Father we learn from the Son! **Jn 14:7-11**- Philip asks Jesus to show them the Father, Jesus says “I have, and it’s through everything that I’ve done and said” wow!

V21-29

- **V20** Paul just told the church that all things exist for and we’re created by Jesus, and that He reconciled all things unto Himself, **V21** says this also included us, who before Christ were separated from God, demonstrated by both our thoughts and our actions. Since we all belong to Adam’s ancestry that means we are all born into sin and therefore “alienated”- separated from God, the word means transferred to another owner, for when Adam sinned all mankind went from having friendship with God to being slaves of Satan, and to self, bought and sold into sin.
- **V22-23** but now Jesus has reconciled us having paid the price of our sin on the cross, and because of that our thoughts, our actions, our motives should all be to glorify Him. Paul uses three words to describe the results of Jesus work of reconciliation > **1st** were now **holy**- set apart for His use, **2nd** **blameless**- not sinless, it means spotless or unblemished, **3rd** **above reproach**- not accuse worthy or free from accusations, the accusations that once stuck are now removed from us > **Rev 12:10**- Satan is an accuser of the brethren, day and night just like he did Job.
- God has now taken you and me who were > **unholy** instead of **holy**, **dirty**- and **not clean**, **guilty as charged** instead of **free from charged**, and He’s made us pure, able to now fellowship with Him, and to take His message to others, letting them know the same freedom is available for them also > **2 Cor 5:18-19** as were given the ministry of reconciliation through the word of reconciliation, translation: Jesus spoke it to us now were expected to repeat it to others.

- **V23** this is why believers should be so excited about salvation, none of us could have ever negotiated a better deal for ourselves, as it's a total win for us. This is why Paul says those truly reconciled to Him stay reconciled, for if you are truly born again then you will also persevere. I can't assure someone who **10yrs** ago came forward at an **evangelism crusade** or **7 Easter's** ago got baptized but didn't continue in the faith, and went back to living like Jesus never reconciled them, **true salvation lasts**, taking **root** as you become (**grounded**), it **encourages** as you become **determined** (steadfast), it gives **hope** telling us we have a future, but **false salvation dies out**.
- **V24** what makes this so interesting is that Paul is saying this to a people he had never met, to a church he didn't start, in a city he never visited as far as we know, and yet they are so dear to him. This is what happens when you go out with no agendas or preconceived ideas and all you want is for people to come to know the Lord. Paul did preach in Ephesus, and it spread to Laodicea, Colossae, to Hierapolis, and because the word doesn't return void, wherever it takes root if you hear about it then it becomes your responsibility.
- You can be doing a bible study and someone who comes brings another co-worker, who then has questions, do you say I didn't invite you, talk to the person who brought you? Although Epaphras had the relationship with this church, Paul still saw it as his duty to help them grow, so whatever he had to endure for that to happen he saw it as a blessing to suffer for their sake, and that should be our attitudes as well.
- **V25** as Paul understood this responsibility came from the Lord, as he is a servant of the church, the body, he didn't take this position on his own initiative, but according to the stewardship from God. Anytime I get overwhelmed, and start to think what am I doing, more than any other time I so appreciate that the Holy Spirit reminds me that I didn't do this on my own initiative, I didn't manufacture it, I didn't fight for it, I simply followed the Lord's leading and he put me in this position instead of doing it myself, usually a sigh of relief ensues.
- **V26-27** a mystery is not a riddle but a truth that can only be known through revelation, as aspects of the gospel of grace being revealed to both Gentile and Jew alike wasn't made clear in the **OT**, but once Christ said "**it was finished on the cross**" then the age of Grace was ushered in and the preaching of it could begin, Paul just didn't know the Lord was going to use him, it was just as a surprise to him as it would be to everyone else.
- **V28-29** which is why Paul made it his focus to preach Christ and not himself > **1Cor 2:2-5**- you always want people's faith to be in Jesus and not some preacher, or some ministry, as those things can and will fail you, but Jesus will keep and sustain you where man will let you down. I'm going to switch the verses around as **V29** gives the model > **A**. He labors, **B**. He strives- he determines to finish what God has started, **C**. He works, **V28** give the results, as once he's done that then > **1st** Jesus we preach, **2nd** People we warn, and **3rd** those who are willing, we teach!