

Lesson 3

Holy, Faultless, and Blameless

Colossians 1:21-23

Introduction

In Colossians 1:16, Paul states that Jesus created *all things*. In 1:20, we see that through Him, *all things* have been *reconciled* by the *blood of His cross*. Once, we were in hostility against God, destined for eternal judgment. Since that crisis has been resolved through the cross, 2:15, we are no longer under condemnation. Paul's usage of *all things* being reconciled here is noteworthy. Does he imply universal salvation? Hardly. Jesus is setting the creation right, thus providing a means of making whole what was broken. Satan, his demons, and all the lost will ultimately be reconciled to God for judgment . . . ultimately having their sentence carried out. *Their relationship with Him will change from that of enemies to that of the judged.*³

1.21-23 – Our Response

1.21-22 – Your status in Christ

Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds as expressed in your evil actions. But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him—

This section closely parallels Ephesians 2:1-2, 12; 4:18. *Once*, the Colossian believers were alienated, hostile, and evil. These words describe the attitudes and actions of people outside a relationship with God. *Now*, after the present reality made possible by Christ, they have been *reconciled* and are *holy, blameless, and above reproach before Him*. This is the status of the faithful Christian walking by the Spirit.

Reconcile, as used in 1:22, means to *make things right*.⁴ It identifies “overt behavior” conducted to remove the hostility. In other words, it describes a change in relationship. In this context, the word is used to communicate the thoroughness or totality of God's action. There is no need for anything else.

All of this is for a purpose: our holiness, blamelessness, and lack of reproach. We have been set apart by God, given a blameless character, and placed in a status where Satan cannot accuse us (Romans 8:33).

1:23 – Demonstrating your salvation

If indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it.

The fact that God, working through Christ, has done so much for us brings a tremendous responsibility. We must *continue* or “abide”⁵ in *the faith*. We work as God and Christ work. We are in a relationship

³ MacArthur, John F., Jr. *Colossians*, p. 59.

⁴ Louw, Johannes. *Greek-English Lexicon* . . . , Vol. 1, p. 501.

⁵ Bullinger, *A Critical Lexicon* . . . , p. 18.

together. Our works demonstrate our changed heart and newfound allegiance to Christ. As Paul writes in Ephesians 2:10, we have been recreated for *good works*.

“The faith,” as used here, refers to *the gospel* delivered to them by the apostles. This was the true faith ... unlike the false teachings many around them were peddling. Those who teach *a different gospel* stand condemned before God, Galatians 1:6-9.

What Can We Learn Here?

Remember the following:

Seek to understand your reconciliation and acknowledge your change in status. Reflect daily on what it means that you have been lifted from alienation and hostility towards God to being reconciled and holy before Him. Start each day with a prayer of thanksgiving for your reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ. Let this make you more thankful for what God has done for you.

Embrace holiness and blamelessness. This is both a gift and a responsibility. Strive to live a life that reflects this status. Set personal spiritual goals, such as committing to daily scripture reading, prayer, and acts of kindness, to align your life more closely with the holiness and blamelessness God has given you. This is how you put your faith into action.

Demonstrate your salvation through good works. Let your actions reflect your faith. As you have been created for good works, find ways to serve others and positively impact those around you. You can volunteer at a local charity, participate in church activities, or help a needy neighbor. Aim to make service a regular part of your life.

Maintain a Christ-centered life, which involves avoiding drifting away from the hope of the gospel. Be vigilant against anything that might lead you away from the hope found in the gospel. This includes recognizing and rejecting false teachings and temptations that lead you away from God. Regularly evaluate the influences in your life, such as media, relationships, and activities, to ensure they align with and support Christian principles. Keep the gospel central in your life. The gospel should be the foundation of all your decisions and actions. Make it a point to share its message through words and deeds. Look for opportunities to discuss your faith and the difference it has made in your life.

Conclusion

By acknowledging our reconciliation with God, embracing holiness, grounding ourselves in the faith, demonstrating our salvation through good works, maintaining a Christ-centered life, and keeping the gospel central, we can live out the principles found in Colossians 1:16-23. These practical applications help us not only better understand our faith but also live it out in a way that glorifies God and impacts those around us.

For Discussion

1. What does reconciliation mean in the context of Colossians 1:20-22? How does this understanding impact your daily life?

2. How do you feel knowing that once you were alienated from God, but now you are considered holy, faultless, and blameless? What emotions or thoughts does this evoke?
3. According to Colossians 1:22, we are reconciled to be presented as holy and blameless. How can we practically pursue holiness and blamelessness in our everyday actions?
4. What does it mean to remain grounded and steadfast in the faith, as mentioned in Colossians 1:23? How can we ensure we stay committed to our faith?
5. How has the gospel changed your life personally? Can you share a specific example of a transformation you've experienced?
6. Paul warns against false teachings in Galatians 1:6-9. How can we identify and avoid false teachings in our current context?
7. What responsibilities come with the reconciliation and salvation we receive through Christ? How should this responsibility shape our actions and decisions?
8. Ephesians 2:10 states we are recreated for good works. What are some good works you feel called to do? How can you incorporate them into your routine?
9. What challenges do you face that might cause you to shift away from the hope of the gospel? How can you overcome these challenges?
10. How can we effectively share the message of the gospel with others? What are some strategies or approaches you find helpful?