

CHRISTOLOGY NOTES 8

Discipleship Hour, 9/4/2020

Colossians v. 21-22, Paul returns to the Colossian's present situation.

Colossians 1:21-22 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight

Note: reconciliation reaches to you personally. v.21 "alienated" means broken off.

Ephesians 2:11-12 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Note: to give sin a place in the mind is to be hostile to God. Thus, as each man does allow sin in, he becomes personally "alienated"

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Note: you are not a sinner because you sinned. You sin because you are a sinner (You are a sinner through Adam... but sinning is by individual choice). Rom 3:23 "have sinned" = once in time past (Adam); "fall short" = the continuous present tense... Sin is a nature; sinning is an action of that nature.

Col.1:21 "wicked works" are the manifestation of the sin within. (Sermon on the mount = adultery is first performed within; the deed itself is may or may not follow.) This is what it means to be "hostile in mind"

Returning to the Colossian issue, Paul says "once" you were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works... But now, = reconciled. Let us see "How" and "Why."

Colossians 1:22 in the body of His flesh through death (how), to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight (why)—

- the "hostile mind" is now the mind of Christ. Renewed
- the spirit that was dead is now alive
- the fellowship lost is now found
- the old has passed away and all is made new. This is a new beginning

v.22 "in the body of His flesh" = an actual physical body

Romans 5:6-11 For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

Ephesians 2:15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace,

Abolishing the law in his flesh by tasting actual physical death. Without this physical body there could be no blood of the cross and without blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it **is** the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'

Hebrews 9:22 And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission.

This is the issue of Adam's fig leaves and God's animal skin covering which required death and blood. From the beginning of sin, blood sacrifice was required:

Hebrews 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts...

Genesis 4:4-5 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

The Lord accepted the blood sacrifice... but not the one that required man's sweat. Then Cain was told to master Sin that crouched at His door but he didn't and he killed his brother.

God's answer comes in:

Genesis 4:25-26 And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed." And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.

Christ's identification with man is a whole study in itself. For tonight, let us be content in seeing that Paul is asserting the idea that God's response to man's need will go to any cost (while we were still sinners...enemies...alienated...).

He stresses the genuine humanity of Christ in whom genuine divinity dwelt. The incarnation of Christ was not for Christmas, but for Good Friday, because reconciliation is focused in his death, where he met all the demands of a holy and just God.

In the incarnation, God has identified Himself with us and those who will identify with Him through Jesus' voluntary obedience will be sozo'd = sound, complete, whole, healed, preserved: in total harmony = reconciled.

But wait – reconciliation is not climaxed until we read on – “in order to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him.

This is a legal issue: “to present” is Gk. *parastesai* as used in 1 Cor.8:8 = “to bring another before the court”

1 Corinthians 8:8 But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.

“irreproachable before him” = “above reproach in His sight” = Gk. *anegkletous* = “not being called to account” which equates to hearing “not guilty” when you are guilty.

2 Corinthians 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The righteousness of God - God's righteousness.

Colossians 1:22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

“in His sight” is a where-phrase not a when-phrase. Jesus is now the high priest who offers God to men and men to God. He is the one mediator between God and man.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the Man Christ Jesus,*

The one who is pre-eminent in creation is pre-eminent in all things. He enacted the grand purpose of reconciliation: He presented you to God... Blameless!

Next in this series: “in order to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him. The presentation is done = legal truth; what must I understand by way of application to make this vital truth?

Tonight, let us give God the glory for this great demonstration of love! AMEN. YESSS

Colossians 1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

How does one continue in the faith? = by not shifting from the hope via the gospel. (This is negative advice.) The positive side is being grounded (stable) and steadfast. Gk. grounded = tethemeliomenoi = well founded (i.e., on a sure foundation).

To be so founded will keep you from “shifting” = Gk. for drifting as of a ship losing its moorings and moving imperceptibly out of safety.

Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

Hebrews 6:18-19 that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil,

Don't shift or drift, Colossians, from “Christ in you” = preeminent one.

Colossians 1:27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Faith guards you:

1 Peter 1:5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Remember, the gospel is the word of truth. The gospel which is not for the secret cult of Gnostics only, but for every creature – not for the initiated few but for every creature. This is the truth they had heard and it is the only Truth.

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,

1st heteros of a different kind

2nd allos of the same kind

There is no other gospel than the one Paul preached!

Romans 6:17 But God be thanked that *though* you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

The gospel Paul ministered:

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

From this point in his letter to 2:8 Paul will continue to define the truth of the gospel, but will take up a new tact and approach the Colossian heresy by means of discussing ministry as a servant of Christ.

Colossians 1:24-25 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,

v.24-25 in context – since Christ already has been shown as reconciler or rescuer of all things – Paul does not mean the vicarious suffering of Christ – he has to be speaking of the suffering (thlipsis = pressure; never used of the cross)

which comes to any servant of God and is using Christ as the supreme model of the servant of the Lord.

Notice: “for the sake of his body, which is the church.” In v. 23, the “of which I, Paul, became a minister” refers to the gospel. Here in v. 25 it refers to the church. Paul is (v.23) a minister of the gospel and thereby suffers. In v.25 He is a minister of the church and thereby serves. The point is that Paul’s body (v.24) “flesh” suffered so that Christ’s body might be served.

In this, Paul rejoiced.

Hebrews 12:2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Mark spoke of, “One hundredfold return with persecutions” – which arise on account of the word.

Mark 4:20 But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept *it*, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

Mark 4:17 and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble.

Heb. 12:2 said, “looking unto Jesus.” It continues with why you must:

Hebrews 12:3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

Consider him...so you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Psalm 34:19 Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous, But the Lord delivers him out of them all.

Colossians 1:25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God,

v.25 – Paul become a minister by the giving of divine office. Gk. oikonomos = steward. He was given; he did not take it to himself. He was given; he could not merit it as a reward, but only receive it as a grace. He could not lay it down for it was entrusted to him and as a steward of the mysteries of God

1 Corinthians 9:16-17 For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship.

He had no option but to act in the interest of the master of the house.

1 Corinthians 4:1-2 Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required in stewards that one be found faithful.

If only all would do what Jesus wants and says and not what they or the congregation wants: do the word of God and not the activity of men... His great ambition then is to deliver the message of God in full.

2 Corinthians 6:3 We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.

Colossians 1:26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.

Thus, giving the revelation of the mystery which always in the gospel means a thing once hidden but now revealed. Men couldn't see any of it because it was to be a "revelation" which would Not be from men and would not be taught and learned.

Galatians 1:12 For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught *it*, but *it came* through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:13-14 unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the **veil** is taken away in Christ.

1 Peter 1:10-13 Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from

heaven—things which angels desire to look into. Therefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;