

Colossians 1:21-23 “Saved for what?”

Read :13-23 to help set the context.

1. Scan through :21-23, and highlight the different tenses used to describe the events/ activities?
2. It's important to remember how God has worked in our lives, how he is currently working and how he will work in the future, Why? In your experience, is there one tense you are more likely to forget? How have you learnt to purposely remember what God has done in your life?
3. Remember again the context that Paul is speaking into, The church in Colossae was being influenced by gnostic heretical teaching. Pastor Don used the phrase “Jesus plus special knowledge” How does :21-23 speak into that?
4. What are the “Jesus +” issues that we deal with now?

There are **four big ideas in the passage.**

Alienation from God	Verse 21
Now we are reconciled	Verse 22
Purpose statement “present us blameless”	Verse 22b
If we continue	Verse 23

Alienation

5. What is the Bible's true portrait of everyone before Christ? What other Bible passages support this theme? (Hint: Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 3:23; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 1 Peter 3:18; Titus 3:3)
6. Who were we alienated from?
7. Is there a connection between having a hostile mind and then doing evil deeds? Can you think of any Biblical examples that illustrate this?
8. How would you share this truth with an unbeliever and try to avoid misunderstanding?

Reconciliation

9. Craft a good definition of what reconciliation means?
10. Reconciliation is a key Bible word that describes Christ's work and what believers experience because of it. The following words also describe Christ's work. Take some time to define these important words. Justification, Propitiation, atonement, Grace, Peace, Salvation. (There will be some overlap in the descriptions)

Purpose

11. A bible writer (William Barclay) has said, “the aim of reconciliation is holiness. Christ carried out his sacrificial work of reconciliation in order to present us to God, consecrated and blameless.” What do you think about this description? Is it helpful in understanding the passage?
12. What is our role or responsibility in accomplishing God’s purpose?
13. Is this section on purpose describing something that is future tense/ present tense or both?

If we continue

14. How might the phrase “if you continue” be misunderstood or misinterpreted and become destructive in a believers life?
15. Do you think the word structure that Paul uses, is meant to create doubts?
16. The Bible contains a number of passages that have this kind of tone to them. They contain a strong warning about potential dangers. What’s the real danger that the church at Colossae was facing?
17. How should we read the warning passages?
18. As you finish, and transition to a time of prayer, make sure to pray for each other, that we would not “shift from the hope of the gospel”