MESSAGE OUTLINE



COLOSSIANS 1:21-23 NKJV

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

INTRODUCTION

Paul now focuses practically how and where it begins—that is in the church.

He teaches: who they were before and how their redemption was accomplished, as well as Paul's own ministerial role, goal, and how he will accomplish it.

As we examine what Paul is saying here, we must answer the questions of where we ourselves are headed—or at least should be—and how we are going to get there.

Do you know where you are going and what your goal is? And in the meantime, how do you get there?

RECAP

God...*has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.* **Colossians 1:13 NKJV**

Paul then says it like this in v.21a.. *a person is alienated and enemies in their minds by wicked works.*

Meaning a person who is not of Christ, is an enemy of God, by how they think, with their minds.

1 John 5:19b – *the whole world is under the sway of the evil one.*

We need to hear it over and over again: Jesus has defeated the devil who had the power of death, triumphed over him, and now we have had our shame removed.

Don't worry about the past. You are made holy, and blameless, and above reproach by the son of God.

But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. **1 Corinthians 6:11b**

AWKWARD

In v.22, Paul uses an awkward phrase here, *in the body of His flesh through death.*

The Gnostics believed that all matter was evil and taught that humanity itself was evil.

But through Jesus Christ, *all things*, were created for Him and by Him. And that through Him, all things, including humanity, are being restored. So such a notion is wrong.

...you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. **Romans 8:9 NKJV**

The flesh no longer has influence over us, if we live in the Spirit.

Now, Gnostics would say, no we are still evil because we are stuck in the material of the flesh, there is no escape. So, as long as you have good intentions, you are OK - even if you sin. It's normal.. that's life!

Noo! That is not what the Bible teaches, and that is not the gospel. The Bible does not condone sin or ever say it is OK. Even in the freedom of Christ.

Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not! **Romans 6:15**

If we are the body of Christ, how can evil still exist in it in the church? Where does it come from?

It is in your head.

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be... **Romans 8:7 NKJV**

Do you sympathize with the darkness and think it's OK? No, sin is not OK.

Jesus has given us the power and his Spirit to control the most difficult thing to control: our fleshly minds.

be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. **Ephesians 4:23-24 NKJV**

You are free to set your mind on things above. So set our minds on things of the Spirit, Romans 8:5.

This is the discipline of the Christian, it is in the mind. The battle is in the mind!

IF...
Oh, see it says we can lose our salvation. That is not what it means.

In Greek, an IF statement has four different leanings.

One type assumes that the state is not likely going to happen.
Another type is where it will probably happen in the future.
A third type is where it is assumed that it is not going to happen.
And the last type assumes it to be true.

In the text today is the last one. This means Paul is assuming it is true and that this will happen to us.

Romans 8:31... *If God is for us*... is He? You will get there.

WHAT IF NOT...
But what if we don't continue steadfast in the faith? What if we slipped back into our old ways.

How can we still make it?

Application 1
Do not question your faith. God, who has begun a good work in each of us will complete it.

Paul told Timothy that the Lord will deliver him from every evil work and preserve him for His heavenly kingdom. (2 Timothy 4:18)

Did you think Paul struggled? Yes, here Paul admitted *that he struggled.*

But he did not rest his hope in his own works, but in faith. This is how he had peace.

Our salvation is a gift, by the grace of God, that we are saved not by works, but through faith.

Your fleshly mind has a mind of its own:
For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. **Romans 8:6**

Application 2
So the second application: the moment your fleshly mind starts talking nonsense to cause you to doubt:

Do not listen to it! Take your own thoughts hostage:

2 Corinthians 10:5, *...cast down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*

The idea here is to actually force your thoughts into obedience in submission to what the Bible says.

Application 3
Think in the Spirit. You cannot walk in the Spirit until you think in the Spirit!

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. **Romans 8:7-8**

A carnal mind is focused on death and darkness. But to be spiritually minded is focused on life and light.

Whatever things are true, noble, just, pure, lovely, good report, if there is any virtue or anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.... and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:8-9)

Do you do this?

Paul wanted to tell everyone the mystery that was revealed. Shame on us if we are not telling people how to be set free from the bondage that they are in!

If you put into practice what the Bible is teaching and apply it, wouldn't you be motivated to share this?

Peace with God, peace of mind, and the promise of eternal life.

Application 4
For so the Lord has commanded us: *'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'* Acts 13:47

Let us share the Good News!

INVITATION
I am not sure you realize it or not, but you are being held captive.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life." And he said, "whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness."

Believe in the Son, because if He sets you free.

Jesse Mark Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
April 20-21, 2024

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