

“The Work of Christ on Our Behalf”

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— ²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. Colossians 1:21-23

1. Paul reminds them of who they used to be. (The Bad News.)

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. (1:21)

Paul uses three words to reveal their former outlook toward God.

- “Alienated,” refers to the historical understanding that at one time the Colossians had been outside the circle of God’s blessing; the covenantal blessing that God had had with the nation of Israel.

➤ They were completely out of harmony with God.

- “Enemies.” It is a strong word that occurs in Scripture to describe the contrast between God and those who do not do his will.

You adulterous people, don’t you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God.” James 4:4

- “Mind.” This word is often translated to mean “heart” and it speaks to a person’s disposition towards God.

The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but

their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Romans 1:20-21

These verses tell us that all of creation points to God.

From creation ALL PEOPLE can know that God exists, and yet people refuse to acknowledge Him.

- ❖ Paul was intentionally reminding the believers at Colosse that at one time, prior to their salvation experience, they had been alienated from God and had been enemies in their minds because of their evil behavior.

Prior to our salvation experience, we were all far removed from God’s blessings. We were all enemies of God in our minds as evidenced through our behavior and deeds.

2. Paul reminds them what God has done for them.

But now he (God) has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— “Colossians1:22”

“Reconciled” means:

- Being restored
- Reinstated
- In good standing,
- Reunited
- Friends
- At peace with God.

Paul is reminding them what Jesus Christ has and is doing for them.

Jesus Christ:

- Is presenting you holy
- In God’s sight
- Without blemish
- And free from accusation.

This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. Colossians 1:21-23