

## RECONCILED

Colossians 1:21-23

*<sup>21</sup>This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions.<sup>22</sup>Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.<sup>23</sup>But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.*

Our study section is part of a larger unit on prayer and thanksgiving that began back in 1:3 and won't be concluded until 1:24. Paul in 1:21-23 is building upon his declaration in 1:19-20 that because all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell in Christ, he reconciled everything to himself by making peace through Christ's blood on the cross. To fully understand what has happened, we need to first consider "what was."

*In what ways does Paul describe their life at one time (1:21)?*

Is that a fair description of what your life was or is? Does it describe the life of anyone you know?

Everyone is born into this world the enemy of God. This is soon seen in our evil thoughts and actions which separate us from God (*Isaiah 59:2*). Another example of this is found in *Romans 1:21-32*. To be reconciled to God, to His creation, and in particular to one another is perhaps the greatest of all human needs.

*Considering this passage in light of Romans 5:10-11 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 what is Paul's teaching on the subject of reconciliation (1:22)?*

*"For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God." (Romans 5:10-11, NLT)*

*"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to him. For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of*

*reconciliation. So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making his appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, "Come back to God!" For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ." (2 Corinthians 5:17-21, NLT)*

*How does Christ's death in a physical body make this possible (1:22; see Romans 3:23-26)?*

*Why did God do this (1:22)?*

*What is the one condition for seeing this accomplished (1:23)?*

*How can the tragedy of losing one's assurance of acceptance by God be averted?*

Have you been reconciled to God? Nothing is more important because with God you have everything and without Him you have nothing. To have peace with God you must trust that Christ's one death on the cross was sufficient payment for all your sin.

This passage does not teach that a person can "lose their salvation." What can happen is the theft of our hope, our assurance that we are accepted by God. When people teach that the Good News is not enough, not all that one must do, then hope is swiped from our lives.

There is an additional aspect of reconciliation that Paul talks about in *Ephesians 2:11-22*. It will help you to read that very important parallel passage on this subject. When you have finished that see how it has expanded in *Galatians 3:26-29*.