

You remember that the Colossian church was in a worldly, pagan community, and the influences of Pre-gnostic philosophies and Jewish legalism were strong. Paul would have the church look to Jesus Christ.

- I. There are good and sufficient reasons for this:
 - A. We have been "made fit" to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: in heaven.
 - B. This came because we have been translated--made to stand out of one kingdom into another one. vs. 13. This kingdom is the kingdom of Jesus Christ.
 - C. This translation is because of the blood of Christ: We were held by means of guilt. We will see more of this in a minute.
 - D. Because Jesus is the image of the invisible God: he is over all authorities and powers.
 1. verse 17-19 sets forth the excellences of Jesus Christ.
 2. All fullness--This is a word used a bit by the Apostle Paul, so that we might look nowhere else for complete salvation: all fullness dwells in Him. Not in angels, not in subordinate powers, certainly no in our own hearts. The fullness is in Christ, and those who would draw men off from Christ, no matter what the pretense, are enemies to their faith.
 3. Col. 2:9: "For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."
 4. Col. 2:3: "In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."
 5. John 1:16: "And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace."
 6. John 5:20: All things have been conferred upon the Son, that we find nowhere else for wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption: I Cor. 1:30
- II. vs. 19: Peace is made by the blood of His Cross.
 - A. Our problem is guilt. Guilt from our first father Adam. We are born in sin because of Adam's sin. We are born again because of Christ's righteousness. From Adam we receive guilt, which brought pollution and corruption of our nature, so that we are born in sin. From the Last Adam, Jesus Christ, we receive mercy so that we might be born again to newness of life and have our sins forgiven and have peace with God.
 - B. In Christ, all things are reconciled:
 1. To God: Our problem is with God; and until we are at peace with Him, there will be no other peace.
 2. To each other. Even the wild animals will be at peace with each other and with man. See that wonderful passage in Isaiah 11:1-9: All things are reconciled in principle, and will be reconciled in fact, through Jesus Christ. Death itself shall be overthrown.
 3. This does not mean that the devil is reconciled to God, or that the finally unbelieving are reconciled, for that would contradict the plain teaching of other scriptures. An important aspect of Christ's work as Messiah is as Anointed King, to subdue all His enemies and banish them from His kingdom forever.
- III. vs. 20-22 : The Church is evidence of this peace.
 - A. The state of the wicked:
 1. We and they were alienated and enemies in our minds. The word for mind means the whole inner being. Notice how this enmity is described: Alienation: Our problem is that we are alienated from God. We are born

alienated because of Adam's guilt, and we further drive ourselves from God by our wicked works.

2. We were members of the power of darkness: vs. 13. Because we are alienated from God.
 3. What is the proof of this: (Our natural disposition is the following) THE INNER MAN:
 - a) We do not read our Bibles, nor seek wisdom from God.
 - b) We do not pray, or depend upon Christ.
 - c) We do not delight in God's people, nor seek their communion.
 - d) We do not seek the public worship of God in the Church, which is the body of Christ. What could be more evident, than our alienation from God?
 - e) We do not seek to live according to His commandments, but according to our own desires and our own wishes.
- B. Verse 22 [READ HC 88 ff in connection with this point] Notice what is said here about the means of our reconciliation to God.
1. "The body of his flesh through death." We are not saved because we have decided to do good things. Just as evil works are evidence of our alienation from God, so are good works evidence of our reconciliation with God.
 2. The head must be connected to the body. Christ must be connected to you. You must be reconciled to God.
 3. Man's dilemma: He was driven from the Garden of Eden. Now He is in a fix. He cannot do good without fellowship with God; he cannot have fellowship with God because he cannot do good. The reconciliation is beyond the strength of man. In the hands of the Law of God is a flaming sword which turns every way to keep the way of the tree of life.
 4. God will accept nothing less than perfect and absolute obedience. He will be reconciled on no other basis. Look at the Garden of Eden, and see if you can find any evidence that God will overlook sin in His creatures. It will never be.
 5. But what God cannot find in us as the ground and reason for reconciliation, He provides Himself in the death of His Only Begotten Son: see 1:12-14. In Christ there is perfect righteousness, so what I lost in Adam I gain in Jesus Christ. I was left naked, ashamed, alienated and lost in Adam: I am clothed in Christ's righteousness; justified, and reconciled to God in the last Adam Jesus Christ. AMEN AND AMEN.
 6. "holy, unblamable, unreprouable." This is not the cause of the reconciliation, but the end result of it. Being now reconciled to God through Jesus Christ, we are united to our rightful head, and His life and goodness once more begins to flow to us, with life-changing results. See I John 1:6,7 The key is fellowship with Christ.
 - a) holy: Called out and separated unto God from the kingdom of darkness. Then separated from sin and rebellion, fulfilled in the Resurrection of the dead.
 - b) Unblamable: Guiltless: no charges can be brought. Not even the dogs can bark. Satan's mouth will be stopped: no charge; no charge. Innocent.
 - c) Unreprouable: Cannot be called to Account. Paul piles up the adjectives, lest we miss the point. This does not mean that we are not accountable to human authority on the earth; Paul makes that clear also: that we are to live under authority and submit to accountability

for our actions, our conduct in the Church and Community and to one another. Often Christians are to blame for their actions on the earth.

- IV. vs. 23. But this reconciliation is found nowhere else than in Jesus Christ.
- A. "If ye continue in the faith." You must continue in union with Jesus Christ. "grounded" = founded, as a city is founded, or a house is built on a rock. The wise man's house was founded on the rock. The Christian faith is no life-insurance policy that you buy once, and then tuck it away in the strong box and not concern yourself anymore. Coming to Christ is the beginning, not the end. The end is for you to be grounded and rooted in Christ, that you put off the old man, and put on the new man.
 - B. The God who predestined the end, also predestined the means. We are to work out our salvation in fear and trembled, not in carnal security and complacency. Wrongdoing must drive you again and again to Christ, to confess, to pray for strength in the inner man, to receive grace to help in time of need. Jesus came to save his people from their sins unto the hope of the Gospel.
 - C. "settled" = means seated. You are established and seated in Christ: Look at Ephesians 2:4-13 This passage is parallel to Col. 1. We are seated in Christ in Heavenly Places. Our Conversation is in Heaven; We are not of the earth, nor are we to live after the course of the world. Such is impossible for those who are united to Christ, and have been predestined unto good works: Phil. 2:12,13. You CAN work out your faith, because God HAS worked it in, and PREDESTINED you to be conformed to the image of His Son. This is the result of our fellowship with Christ, not because of it.
 - D. "Not moved away" Do not move away from Christ. Gal. 3: The Gospel which your faithful pastor Epaphras and preached to them.
 - E. "To every creature under heaven" Not some hidden, secret message. The gospel is the common treasure of the church. The Gospel that Paul preached: this is the message, and it is found in the Bible. Salvation by grace through Jesus Christ; not of works, not of secret knowledge, not of law keeping, not of hidden mysteries. The Gospel which was preached in the whole world in the first century. The one Paul was a minister of. Which one is that: read what Paul wrote in his book and in his other books, and don't be led astray by the pride and arrogance of men, who would teach you to trust in something else that the fullness of Jesus Christ.
 - F. Look at John 14:1-10. All fullness dwells in Him. There is no other place to go after you have come to him, for everything you need is in Jesus Christ.

May God bless you.