

# God's Plan – Our Participation

## Colossians 1:21-23

**BGT** <sup>21</sup> Καὶ ὑμᾶς ποτε ὄντας ἀπηλλοτριωμένους καὶ ἐχθροὺς τῇ διανοίᾳ ἐν τοῖς ἔργοις τοῖς πονηροῖς, <sup>22</sup> νυνὶ δὲ ἀποκατήλλαξεν ἐν τῷ σώματι τῆς σαρκὸς αὐτοῦ διὰ τοῦ θανάτου παραστήσαι ὑμᾶς ἁγίους καὶ ἀμώμους καὶ ἀνεγκλήτους κατενώπιον αὐτοῦ, <sup>23</sup> εἴ γε ἐπιμένετε τῇ πίστει τεθεμελιωμένοι καὶ ἐδραῖοι καὶ μὴ μετακινούμενοι ἀπὸ τῆς ἐλπίδος τοῦ εὐαγγελίου οὗ ἠκούσατε, τοῦ κηρυχθέντος ἐν πάσῃ κτίσει τῇ ὑπὸ τὸν οὐρανόν, οὗ ἐγενόμην ἐγὼ Παῦλος διάκονος.

**NKJ** <sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled <sup>22</sup> in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight -- <sup>23</sup> 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.

My Identity as an INDIVIDUAL (Colossians 1:1)

My Identity as Part of a GROUP (Colossians 1:2)

Three Realms of a Believer's Walk (Colossians 1:3-8) – Ongoing Belief, Active Care, Forward Focus

Three Areas of Prayer for Spiritual Growth (Colossians 1:9-11) – Worthy Walking, Fruitful Working, Empowered Doing

Four Reasons to Thank God (1:12-14) – Our Qualification, Extrication, Translation, Redemption (He made us fit, free, followers, forgiven)

Serve the Savior as the Creator (1:15-17) – He is God of All, Firstborn of All, Creator of All

Who Is First in Your Life? (1:18) Christ is first in the Church, in Existence, in the Resurrection, in All Things

Why Should Christ Be First? (1:19-20) Because of Who He Is (Fully God) and What He Has Done (Reclaimed All Things)

### I. OUR PAST

<sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works

<sup>21</sup> Καὶ ὑμᾶς ποτε ὄντας ἀπηλλοτριωμένους καὶ ἐχθροὺς τῇ διανοίᾳ ἐν τοῖς ἔργοις τοῖς πονηροῖς

#### A. We Were Disconnected from God – “Alienated” – Alienation

*Used only here and two times in Ephesians*

**Eph 2:12** that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

ὅτι ἦτε τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ χωρὶς Χριστοῦ, ἀπηλλοτριωμένοι τῆς πολιτείας τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ καὶ ξένοι τῶν διαθηκῶν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας, ἐλπίδα μὴ ἔχοντες καὶ ἄθεοι ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ.

**Eph 4:18** having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

ἐσκοτωμένοι τῇ διανοίᾳ ὄντες, ἀπηλλοτριωμένοι τῆς ζωῆς τοῦ θεοῦ διὰ τὴν ἄγνοιαν τὴν οὖσαν ἐν αὐτοῖς, διὰ τὴν πώρωσιν τῆς καρδίας αὐτῶν,

#### B. We Were Opposed to God – “Hostile Ones” – Opposition

**Rom 5:10** For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

εἰ γὰρ ἐχθροὶ ὄντες κατηλλάγημεν τῷ θεῷ διὰ τοῦ θανάτου τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ, πολλῶ μᾶλλον καταλλαγέντες σωθησόμεθα ἐν τῇ ζωῇ αὐτοῦ.

**James 4:4** Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

μοιχαλίδες, οὐκ οἴδατε ὅτι ἡ φιλία τοῦ κόσμου ἐχθρὰ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐστίν; ὃς ἐὰν οὖν βουλευθῆ φίλος εἶναι τοῦ κόσμου, ἐχθρὸς τοῦ θεοῦ καθίσταται.

**Rom 8:7** Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. διότι τὸ φρόνημα τῆς σαρκὸς ἐχθρὰ εἰς θεόν, τῷ γὰρ νόμῳ τοῦ θεοῦ οὐχ ὑποτάσσεται, οὐδὲ γὰρ δύναται.

#### 1. In Our Thoughts or Beliefs – In our understanding (Eph 2:3; 4:18)

#### 2. By Our Actions or Behavior – By the works of evil (both 1 & 2 have Christian counterparts)

### II. OUR PRESENT

yet now He has reconciled <sup>22</sup> in the body of His flesh through death

<sup>22</sup> νυνὶ δὲ ἀποκατήλλαξεν ἐν τῷ σώματι τῆς σαρκὸς αὐτοῦ διὰ τοῦ θανάτου

*general reconciliation of all creation (v. 20), now specific application to believers*

#### A. Our Status – Reconciled

##### 1. The timing – now

##### 2. The initiative – He has reconciled

## B. Our Savior – By means of His death

1. In the body of the flesh of Him
2. Through the death

### III. GOD'S PLAN

to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight

παραστήσαι ὑμᾶς ἁγίους καὶ ἀμώμους καὶ ἀνεγκλήτους κατενώπιον αὐτοῦ,

#### A. His Presentation – To Present You

Four Parts of the Presentation:

- (1) Presenter: The One Doing the Presenting;
- (2) Presentee: The One Being Presented;
- (3) Presented: The One Who Is Receiving the Presentation;
- (4) The Criteria of the Presentation

Examples:

- Your bodies or body members to God (Rom 6:13-19; 12:1)
- Yourself approved to God (2 Tim 2:15)

Question: *Does this passage – this presenting of believers as holy, blameless and above reproach – involve our position or our practice? Is it a present position or does it require a process? Is it certain or conditional?*

Col 1:28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

#### Criteria of the Presentation

1. Sinless – Without Sin – Holy
2. Faultless – Without Fault – Unblemished

Eph 1:4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, (position)

Eph 5:27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (process – see. v 25-26)

Phil 2:14-16<sup>14</sup> Do all things without complaining and disputing,<sup>15</sup> that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,<sup>16</sup> holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain. (process – v.14-16)

Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, (process or preservation)

3. Blameless – Without Blame – Un-accusable

1 Cor 1:8 who will also confirm you to the end, *that you may be* blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Tim 3:10 But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being *found* blameless. (practice)

Titus 1:6 if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. (practice)

Titus 1:7 For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, (practice)

#### B. His Timing – In His Presence

Rom 14:10 But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

### IV. OUR PARTICIPATION (23)

<sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard

εἴ γε ἐπιμένετε τῇ πίστει τεθεμελιωμένοι καὶ ἑδραῖοι καὶ μὴ μετακινούμενοι ἀπὸ τῆς ἐλπίδος τοῦ εὐαγγελίου οὐ ἠκούσατε

#### A. The Crossroad (“if”)

#### B. The Condition – Remaining in the Faith (cf. 1 John 2:28) – *present tense*

1. “Grounded” – Having been given a foundation (perf pass) – Process of Learning the Basics
2. “Steadfast” – Having developed a firmness (adj) – Practice of Staying in the Truth
3. “Not Moved...” – Having the proper focus – Principle of Resting and Relying on the Gospel

And **you** {pl} – **OUR PAST**  
 once while being {-}  
 having been alienated {→ pass} and  
 hostile {ones}  
 in the understanding in the works the evil {ones},  
 now and – **OUR PRESENT**  
 He has reconciled {x}  
 in the body of the flesh of Him  
 through the death  
 to present {x} **you** – **GOD'S PLAN**  
 holy {ones} and  
 unblemished {ones} and  
 blameless {ones}  
 in the presence of Him,  
 if {since} indeed – **OUR COOPERATION**  
**you** are remaining in the faith  
 having been established {→ pass pl} and  
 steadfast {ones} and  
 not being moved {pres pass part pl}  
 from the hope  
 of the gospel  
 which **you** heard {x pl},  
 the one which was proclaimed {x part}  
 in all the creation  
 the under the heaven,  
 which I became myself Paul a minister.

Διὰ τοῦτο καὶ ἡμεῖς,  
 ἀφ' ἧς ἡμέρας ἠκούσαμεν,  
 οὐ παύομεθα ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν  
 προσευχόμενοι καὶ  
 αἰτούμενοι,  
 ἵνα πληρωθῆτε τὴν ἐπίγνωσιν τοῦ θελήματος αὐτοῦ  
 ἐν πάσῃ  
 σοφίᾳ καὶ  
 συνέσει πνευματικῇ,  
 περιπατήσαι ἀξίως τοῦ κυρίου  
 εἰς πᾶσαν ἀρεσκείαν,  
 ἐν παντὶ ἔργῳ ἀγαθῷ  
 καρποφοροῦντες καὶ  
 αὐξανόμενοι  
 τῇ ἐπιγνώσει τοῦ θεοῦ,  
 ἐν πάσῃ δυνάμει  
 δυναμούμενοι  
 κατὰ τὸ κράτος  
 τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ  
 εἰς πᾶσαν  
 ὑπομονὴν καὶ  
 μακροθυμίαν. Μετὰ χαρᾶς  
 εὐχαριστοῦντες  
 τῷ πατρὶ  
 τῷ ἰκανώσαντι ὑμᾶς  
 εἰς τὴν μερίδα  
 τοῦ κλήρου  
 τῶν ἁγίων  
 ἐν τῷ φωτί·  
 ὃς  
 ἐρρόσατο ἡμᾶς  
 ἐκ τῆς ἐξουσίας  
 τοῦ σκοτοῦ καὶ  
 μετέστησεν  
 εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν  
 τοῦ υἱοῦ τῆς ἀγάπης αὐτοῦ,  
 ἐν ᾧ ἔχομεν  
 τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν,  
 τὴν ἄφεσιν  
 τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν·  
 ὃς ἐστὶν  
 εἰκὼν τοῦ θεοῦ τοῦ ἀοράτου,  
 πρωτότοκος πάσης κτίσεως,  
 ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ ἐκτίσθη τὰ πάντα  
 ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς καὶ  
 ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς,  
 τὰ ὀρατὰ καὶ  
 τὰ ἀόρατα,  
 εἴτε θρόνοι  
 εἴτε κυριότητες  
 εἴτε ἀρχαί

On account of this also we,  
 from which day we heard,  
 not we are ceasing on behalf of you  
**praying** and  
**asking**,  
 in order that you {pl} might be filled with the knowledge of the will of him  
 in all **(PRACTICE – worthy walking – what)**  
 wisdom and  
 understanding {insight} spiritual,  
 to walk {aor inf} worthily of the Lord  
 unto all [things] a desire to please,  
 in {into?} all [things?] a work good **(PRODUCE – fruitful working)**  
**bearing fruit** and  
**being increased**  
 in the knowledge of the God,  
 in all [things?] power **(POWER – empowered effort – how)**  
**being empowered**  
 according to the might {force}  
 of the glory of him  
 unto all  
 endurance and  
 longsuffering. Amid {meta} joy,  
**giving thanks**  
 to [the] father  
 to the One who **made sufficient** {aor part} { renders fit} us  
 unto the share {part}  
 of the called [one]  
 of the holy [ones]  
 in {by} the light;  
 Who  
**has delivered** us  
 from {out of} the authority  
 of the darkness and  
**has conveyed** [us]  
 into the kingdom  
 of the Son of the love of Him,  
 in Whom we have {-}  
 the redemption through His blood,  
 the forgiveness  
 of sins.  
**Who is**  
**Image** {ikon} of the God the invisible {unseeable},  
**Firstborn** of **all** creation,  
 Because **in Him were created** **the all**  
 In the heavens and  
 Upon the earth,  
 The visible things and  
 The invisible things  
 Whether thrones,  
 Whether lordships,  
 Whether rulers,

<p style="text-align: center;">εἴτε ἐξουσίαι·</p> <p style="text-align: center;">τὰ πάντα  δι' αὐτοῦ καὶ  εἰς αὐτὸν  ἐκτίσται· καὶ  αὐτὸς ἐστὶν  πρὸ πάντων καὶ  τὰ πάντα ἐν αὐτῷ  συνέστηκε· {→} καὶ  αὐτὸς ἐστὶν  ἡ κεφαλὴ  τοῦ σώματος τῆς ἐκκλησίας·  ὃς ἐστὶν  ἀρχή,  πρωτότοκος  ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν,  ἵνα γένηται  ἐν πᾶσιν  αὐτὸς πρωτεύων,  ὅτι  ἐν αὐτῷ  εὐδόκησεν  πάν τὸ πλήρωμα κατοικῆσαι καὶ  δι' αὐτοῦ  ἀποκαταλλάξαι  τὰ πάντα  εἰς αὐτόν,  εἰρηνοποιήσας  διὰ τοῦ αἵματος  τοῦ σταυροῦ αὐτοῦ,  [δι' αὐτοῦ]  εἴτε τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς  εἴτε τὰ ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς.</p> <p>Καὶ ὑμᾶς  ποτε ὄντας  ἀπηλοτριωμένους καὶ  ἐχθροὺς  τῇ διανοίᾳ ἐν τοῖς ἔργοις τοῖς πονηροῖς,  νυνὶ δὲ  ἀποκατήλαξεν  ἐν τῷ σώματι τῆς σαρκὸς αὐτοῦ  διὰ τοῦ θανάτου  παραστήσαι ὑμᾶς  ἀγίους καὶ  ἀμώμους καὶ  ἀνεγκλήτους  κατενώπιον αὐτοῦ,  εἴ γε  ἐπιμένετε τῇ πίστει  τεθεμελιωμένοι καὶ  ἐδραῖοι καὶ  μὴ μετακινούμενοι  ἀπὸ τῆς ἐλπίδος  τοῦ εὐαγγελίου  οὗ ἠκούσατε,  τοῦ κηρυχθέντος  ἐν πάσῃ κτίσει  τῇ ὑπὸ τὸν οὐρανόν,  οὗ ἐγενόμην ἐγὼ Παῦλος διάκονος.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Whether authorities;</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>[The all]</b>  <b>Through Him</b> and  <b>Unto Him</b>  <b>were created;</b> and  <b>He is</b> before <b>all</b> and  <b>The all</b> in <b>Him</b> have been <b>held together</b> {→}. And  <b>He is</b>  the <b>head</b>  of the body of the assembly;  <b>Who is</b>  <b>beginning</b>  <b>firstborn</b>  from the dead {ones},  In order that might become  In <b>all</b> {things}  He Himself being first {holding/having first place}  Because  <b>In Him</b>  Was pleased  All the fullness {pl} to occupy and  <b>Through Him</b>  To reconcile {x}  <b>The all</b>  <b>Unto Himself</b>  Having made peace  Through the blood  Of the cross of Him.  [through Him]  Whether the {things} upon the earth  Whether the {things} in the heavens.</p> <p>And you {pl} – <b>OUR PAST</b>  once while being {~}  having been alienated {→ pass} and  hostile {ones}  in the understanding in the works the evil {ones},  now and – <b>OUR PRESENT</b>  He has reconciled {x}  in the body of the flesh of Him  through the death  to present {x} you – <b>GOD'S PLAN</b>  holy {ones} and  unblemished {ones} and  blameless {ones}  in the presence of Him,  if {since} indeed – <b>OUR COOPERATION</b>  you are remaining in the faith  having been established {→ pass pl} and  steadfast {ones} and  not being moved {pres pass part pl}  from the hope  of the gospel  which you heard {x pl},  the one which was proclaimed {x part}  in all the creation  the under the heaven,  which I became myself Paul a minister.</p>
--	--

<sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled <sup>22</sup> in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight -- <sup>23</sup> 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.