

God's Plan – Our Participation

Colossians 1:21-23

BGT ²¹ Καὶ ὑμᾶς ποτε ὄντας ἀπηλλοτριωμένους καὶ ἐχθροὺς τῇ διανοίᾳ ἐν τοῖς ἔργοις τοῖς πονηροῖς, ²² νυνὶ δὲ ἀποκατήλλαξεν ἐν τῷ σώματι τῆς σαρκὸς αὐτοῦ διὰ τοῦ θανάτου παραστήσαι ὑμᾶς ἁγίους καὶ ἀμώμους καὶ ἀνεγκλήτους κατενώπιον αὐτοῦ, ²³ 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 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.

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

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

²¹ Καὶ ὑμᾶς ποτε ὄντας ἀπηλλοτριωμένους καὶ ἐχθροὺς τῇ διανοίᾳ ἐν τοῖς ἔργοις τοῖς πονηροῖς

A. We Were _____ 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 _____ 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 καταλλάγημεν τῷ θεῷ διὰ τοῦ θανάτου τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ, πολλῶ μᾶλλον καταλλαγέμεντες 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 _____ or _____ – In our understanding (Eph 2:3; 4:18)

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

II. OUR PRESENT

yet now He has reconciled ²² in the body of His flesh through death

²² 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 _____ – Reconciled

1. The timing – now

2. The initiative – He has reconciled

B. Our _____ – 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 _____ – 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. _____ – Without _____ – Holy
2. _____ – Without _____ – 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 ¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and disputing, ¹⁵ 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, ¹⁶ 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. _____ – Without _____ – 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 _____ – 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)

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

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

A. The _____ (“if”)

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

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