**Rest in Your Reconciliation**

Colossians 1:20-23

**Introduction**

In the opening of his letter to the Colossians, Paul helps them take a closer look at Who Christ is. It is almost as though he is bringing before the Colossians a parade of truth contained in the gospel to remind them of their freedom in Christ: He has qualified them to receive His inheritance; He has delivered them from darkness to light and into His kingdom; He has redeemed them and forgiven them; He is the Creator who came to set them free; He is the Head of the church who came to guide them; He is the resurrected Savior who cares for them; all the fullness of God is found in Him and He alone is sufficient and preeminent. Then, like a grand finale of a fireworks show, Paul’s words crescendo into a declaration of their reconciliation to God. He wanted them to see that their reconciliation to God pointed to their completeness in Christ. Let’s consider Colossians 1:20-23 and the fact of our reconciliation.

1. **Believers have been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.** 
   1. Jesus made peace through the blood of His cross. (v. 20a) He established harmony.
   2. The intent of the cross was to reconcile all things to Himself. (v. 20b)
2. Reconcile - to reestablish proper friendly interpersonal relations after these have been disrupted or broken; to make things right with one another; to bring back to a former state of harmony.
3. The reconciliation would affect things in earth, as well as in heaven. As a result of Christ’s reconciling work on the cross, God plans for an eventual new heavens and new earth.
4. While many relationships in life may need reconciliation, man’s greatest need is to be reconciled to God.
   1. At one time, we were alienated and counted as the enemies of God. (v. 21)
5. Sometime – formerly; at one time.
6. Alienated – estranged; to be separated from; to be a stranger to; to be shut out from one's fellowship and intimacy. The sinner is locked out of God’s presence. He cannot hear. He lives without awareness of God’s work of reconciliation.
7. Enemies – to be in opposition to; hostile.
8. Our wicked mind separated us from God (v. 21a). The wickedness of the mind, thoughts, and attitudes is manifested by wicked works; by bad, harmful deeds (v. 21b).
9. Man is the only one who sinned. Man is the one who moved away from God.
   1. God took the initiative in reconciliation. (v. 21c)
10. Reconciliation required the incarnation (v. 22a). He took on Him a fleshly body.
11. Reconciliation required His substitutionary death (v. 22b).
12. The scope of His reconciling work is the world. It does not, however, mean that all men are automatically reconciled. They must be brought to faith in Christ.
    1. The purpose of reconciliation was to present us acceptable to God. (v. 22c)
       1. Present – to cause to stand before; to bring before.
       2. Through reconciliation, we are holy.
       3. Unblameable - unblemished; blameless, without fault; pure;the absence of defects in sacrificial animals.
       4. Unreproveable – not having been called up or arraigned before a judge; hence, free from reproach, blameless, not accused of having done anything wrong; one who cannot be accused of anything wrong; without accusation.
       5. In His sight – His presence.
13. **The fact of our reconciliation will be revealed by the endurance in the life of the believer (v. 23)**
    1. They should continue in the faith.
14. Continue - to remain in, to keep on. “We are not saved by continuing in the faith. But we continue in the faith and thus prove that we are saved.” (Wiersbe)
15. Grounded - to provide a firm basis for belief or practice; well-founded.
16. Settled - sedentary, seated; steadfast, firm, settled in one's thinking or belief; firmly established in one's position.
    1. They should not be moved away from the hope of the gospel.
17. Not moved away – not shifted away; not removed from; not pushed from or shaken from; not being led to give up one's confidence in something.
18. They have heard the gospel. It has been preached to every creature.
19. They had the aid of Paul as a minister.
    1. There was no need to move since they had all they needed in the gospel. The only reason to move is if you are moving to a better place. There was no better place to live than in the truth of the gospel.
20. **Central Idea: Reconciliation makes it possible for you to find your completeness in Christ.** 
    1. Believing the gospel brings man into a right standing before God.
21. They were at odds with God.
22. Jesus came and lived as a perfect, sinless man.
23. He died as man’s substitute.
24. He rose again for man’s justification.
25. Salvation can only be by grace through faith.
26. When a person believes the gospel, they stand right with God through Jesus Christ.
27. The work of salvation is complete.
    1. What more do they need to be made right with God?
28. What will keeping the dietary law add to your right standing before God?
29. What will the observance of holy days add to your right standing before God?
30. What additional religious experience do they need to be right with God?
31. What additional knowledge do they need to be right with God?
    1. They needed to rest in the fact of their reconciliation.
    2. The fact of our reconciliation to God points to our completeness in Christ as well.
32. We stood odds with God.
33. Jesus died that we might be reconciled to God.
34. Salvation by grace through faith brings us into a right standing with God.
35. There is nothing we have to add to that in order to be accepted with God.
36. **What are the implications of reconciliation?** 
    1. We need to be thankful that God saved us from our sin.
    2. We were not reconciled to continue sinning against God.
    3. We need to rest in the truth of our reconciliation.
    4. We are a new creature in Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:17).
    5. God can use you to bring someone else to the place of being reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:19).
       1. There is no place on earth that is off-limits to the gospel.
       2. The work of the gospel is the main work on the earth, not a side issue.

**Conclusion**

Those who have been reconciled should bring others to a place of reconciliation.