

Sunday, June 21, 2020—Colossians 1:22 The Doctrine of Reconciliation, Part 2

### Introduction

- Two weeks ago, the last Sunday that I Live Streamed from home, I preached on the doctrine of reconciliation in Colossians 1:21. Before that we looked at verse 20 where we observed the following:
  - Based on “the blood of his cross” God the Father made peace between Jew and Gentile (Eph. 2:11-18). Furthermore, we saw how the cross work of Christ is the mechanism that will also bring about the reconciliation of all the governmental structures of rank and authority under the headship of Jesus Christ (Col. 1:16). Verse 20 is dealing with the macro level or the big picture dispensational issue’s in the execution of God’s eternal purpose (Rom. 11:15). Whereas verse 21, the verse we are going to consider this morning is dealing with us individually as believers.
- Colossians 1:21—And you (the believers in Colosse) were sometime (once or formerly) alienated (estranged) and enemies (a foe or an adversary) in your minds by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled
- **Reconciled**—according to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* means:
  - “brought into friendship from a state of disagreement or enmity; made consistent; adjusted.” (Webster’s 1828)
- This word is past tense and speaks of those who have already been brought into friendship from a previous state of enmity.
- Colossians 1:4-5—the Colossians were reconciled because they believed and trusted Paul’s gospel. Only those who have believed the gospel are forgiven and reconciled to God.
- How were the Colossians and therefore us reconciled to God? Verse 22 is going to answer that for us.

### Colossians 1:22

- **In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:**
- **In the body of his flesh through death**—it was through Christ’s death upon the cross that the Colossians were reconciled to God i.e., it was through the “blood of his cross” in verse 20 that God is able to reconciled all things until himself.
  - Romans 3:25
  - Romans 5:8-10—believers were reconciled to God by the death of his Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

- II Corinthians 5:18-21—the consistent testimony of the Word of God is that the death and blood of Jesus Christ is the basis for our reconciliation to God. Jesus Christ was made our substitute on the cross; this alone is the reason for his death.
- In 2013 I first encountered some folks saying that all the world was FORGIVEN of their sins 2,000 years ago when Christ died on the cross. Folks asserting this are arguing based upon II Corinthians 5:17-21 that people die and go to hell with their sins FORGIVEN because God has already reconciled the world unto himself. This position maintains belief in the FORGIVEN & RECONCILED LOST.
- Advocates of this view maintain that the entire world was RECONCILED to God and FORGIVEN of all their sins 2,000 years ago when Christ died upon the cross. However, if one doesn't realize that or believe that, you are not JUSTIFIED, and therefore go to hell with their sins forgiven.
- Those who argue that all sin was FORGIVEN 2,000 ago will say there is a difference between FORGIVENESS and JUSTIFICATION. Those articulating this position assert that ALL sin was FORGIVEN at the cross, but one must trust Paul's gospel in order to be JUSTIFIED. This a misuse of the word JUSTIFICATION.
- Noah Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828) defines the word JUSTIFICATION as follows:
  - "4. In theology, REMISSION OF SIN and absolution from GUILT and punishment; or an act of free grace by which God pardons the sinner and accepts him as righteous, on account of the atonement of Christ."
- The very same dictionary defines the English word REMISSION as follows:
  - "5. FORGIVENESS; pardon; that is, the giving up of the punishment due to a crime; as the remission of sins."
- It is therefore a contradiction to assert that one is FORGIVEN but not JUSTIFIED. According to the meaning of English words, one cannot be FORGIVEN without being JUSTIFIED because to be JUSTIFIED means to be FORGIVEN. This of course means that for the sake of consistency that if one is going to assert that all are FORGIVEN, they must also assert that all are JUSTIFIED. If all are automatically JUSTIFIED that is UNIVERSAL JUSTIFICATION.
- The razor's edge is a dangerous place to be. All sin has been PAID FOR, but one must trust Paul's gospel in order to receive JUSTIFICATION i.e., the FORGIVENESS of sins as a FREE GIFT.

### **Humanities Reality**

- Ephesians 2:1-3—man, by nature, is born dead in trespasses and sins (verse 1) and therefore is by “nature” a child of wrath (verse 3). I Cor. 15:22 states, “For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” Paul teaches that all of humanity inherited the fallen nature of Adam

and is therefore “in Adam” at birth: dead in trespasses and sins, with God’s wrath abiding upon him. We are not born automatically reconciled to God.

- Romans 3:23
- Romans 5:1—peace with God is only possessed by those who have been justified by faith.
- Romans 5:8—every person reading was still dead in their sins when Christ died for them. Every person reading was born dead in sins even though Christ died for them 2,000 years ago.
- Romans 5:9-10—“now” that we have believed the gospel of Christ, we are “justified by his blood” (verse 9). Before we were justified by faith (verse 1) “we were enemies” of God, according to verse 10. Even though God settled his **IRRECONCILABLE** differences with us 2,000 years ago and made us **RECONCILABLE**, we were still by nature God’s enemy because of inherited sin. Therefore, we are not **RECONCILED TO GOD** in verse 10 until after we have been **JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD** in verse 9. The only thing God will accept is perfect righteousness. Therefore, we are not reconciled to God until the righteousness of God is imputed to our account when we are justified by faith.
- Romans 6:23—therefore, we are born into a reality in which provision for our sin problem has been made and **THE PRICE HAS BEEN PAID IN FULL**, but we are still prime candidates for the wrath of God upon entrance into this life. Why? Because justification, forgiveness of sins, and eternal life are the gift of God through Jesus Christ. By way of illustration, at Christmas time I go to the store and **PURCHASE** gifts for my children. I pay the required redemption price on their behalf. Therefore, on Christmas morning, the gifts have been **PAID FOR**, but they do not **BELONG** to my children yet because they have yet to receive them as their own. It is not until they receive the gifts and appropriate them as their own that they belong to them even though I **PAID FOR** them on their behalf.
- Romans 3:24—so it is with our salvation. Two thousand years ago Jesus Christ **PAID FOR** all our sin. In doing so he made us **RECONCILABLE** or **SAVEABLE**. Before that payment can be placed to our account, we first have to receive the gift of salvation by grace through faith as our own. When we acknowledge our sinfulness and realize that we cannot save ourselves and we rely and trust exclusively in the shed blood of Christ and his resurrection from the dead as the total and complete payment for our sin we are justified, reconciled to God, baptized into the body of Christ, sealed with the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption, blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, and seated in Christ at the right hand of God far above all principalities and powers in the heavenly places. This is the other side of the reconciliation coin.
- Ephesians 2:8-9—until we by faith receive the gift and trust the provision that Christ made on our behalf, we remain dead in trespasses and sins with God’s wrath abiding upon us. Christ once

and for all time put away sin by the sacrifice of himself; but only those individuals that by faith apply that provision to their own personal sin account are reconciled to God.

- II Corinthians 5:17-18—one must be in Christ to receive the following spiritual benefits.

<b>In Adam</b>	<b>In Christ</b>
Dead in trespasses and sins Child of disobedience In the lusts of the flesh By nature, children of wrath Experience the second death i.e., eternal damnation and separation from God	Forgiven/Justified Reconciled to God New creature Old things are passed away All things are become new

- Just because God was not imputing the world's trespasses unto them in a dispensational sense does not automatically mean that he was imputing his righteousness unto them individually. The Imputed righteousness of Christ (justification) is given to any person the moment they acknowledge their sin and trust the shed blood of Jesus Christ as the only total and complete payment for their sins. Justification must precede reconciliation. **NO ONE IS BORN INTO THIS LIFE ALREADY RECONCILED TO GOD.**
- People die and go to hell every day having their sins PAID FOR, but no one dies and goes to hell having their sins FORGIVEN. Forgiveness is not granted until the gift has been accepted.

### **How Does One Get into Christ?**

- Romans 3:22—the offer of salvation during the dispensation of grace is unto all men, however, it is only upon all them that BELIEVE.
- Romans 5:1—those who have been justified by FAITH have peace with God. Having peace with God means that they have been Reconciled unto to God. How? By FAITH.
- One cannot get into the Christ without belief/faith in the finished work of Christ. Those who are in Adam i.e., the lost are not forgiven.
- The notion of the forgiven lost is a position of no practical consequence. If God is going to send forgiven and reconciled people to hell anyway what difference does it make that they were forgiven. The FORGIVEN LOST won't take part in the rapture because they are lost and still in Adam.
- I Thessalonians 4:14—you must BELIEVE that Jesus died and rose again to participate in the rapture.
- Acts 13:38-39—if forgiveness of sins and reconciliation were accomplished fact for every individual why was Paul preaching the “forgiveness of sins?” Verse 39 makes it clear that one

must BELIEVE in order to be justified and have their sins forgiven. It is contradiction of English grammar and common sense to teach someone that they can be FORGIVEN but not JUSTIFIED.

- Acts 26:18—is pretty clear that if one wants their sins FORGIVEN they need to believe the Christ died for their sins.
- II Corinthians 6:2—the entire dispensation of grace is a day of salvation. God is willing to save anyone today who trusts in the finished work of his son.