

Sunday, July 19, 2020—Colossians 1:22-23 If Ye Continue

### Introduction/Review

- When we were last in our study of Colossians, we were looking at the issue of reconciliation in Colossians 1:21-22.
- 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* the English word “reconciled” means:
  - “brought into friendship from a state of disagreement or enmity; made consistent; adjusted.”
- 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 provides the answer.
- **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 reconcile all things unto himself.
  - Romans 5:8-10—believers were reconciled to God by the death of his Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Colossians 1:22

- **In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:**
- In the second half of verse 22 we learn that God had an objective in reconciling the Colossians “in the body of his flesh through death.”
- He wanted “to present” them “holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight.” The English verb “present” carries the following meaning according to Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language*:
  - To set, place or introduce into the presence or before the face of a superior, as to present an envoy to the king; and with the reciprocal pronoun, to come into the presence of a superior.

- Job 1:6
- The Lord Jesus Christ reconciled us by “the blood of his cross” “through death” to “present” us to God the Father in a holy, unblameable and unproveable standing/position.
  - **Holy**—is the same word translated “saints” in verse 2. In Christ we are presented to God the Father as “holy” or “properly, whole, entire or perfect, in a moral sense” in Christ.
    - Leviticus 11:44
    - II Corinthians 5:21
  - **Unblameable**—means not blamable; not culpable or innocent, according to Webster’.
    - Ephesians 1:4
    - Ephesians 5:27
  - **Unproveable**—means “not liable to reproof or blame” i.e., blameless.
    - I Corinthians 1:8—“blameless”
- Colossians 1:22—in Jesus Christ we are presented to God the Father as “holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight.” When God looks at believers, he sees them as perfect in his Son. The “in his sight” portion of the verse indicates that Paul is talking about our standing or our position in Christ in this passage. The same adjectives that are used in describing the various members of the Godhead are applied to believers in Colossians 1:22.
- Think about the great reversal in fortunes we have seen in Colossians 1:21-22. The Colossians went from being “alienated and enemies” in their minds “by wicked works” in verse 21 to being “reconciled” and presented perfect before God in verse 22.

### Colossians 1:23

- **If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;**
- For many people all the joy they had in understating verses 21 and 22 crashes headfirst into the conditional statement at the beginning of verse 23. In my opinion, this is the most challenging condition in all of Paul’s epistles. One needs to exercise extreme care when expounding upon this passage.

- In the past, I have taught a lot on the different types of conditions found in the Bible. Sometimes conditions are objective or fact stating and other times they are hypothetical or circumstantial. Consider the different between the following statements.
  - If you are in this room right now you are hearing my voice. (Fact Stating: If and Its True)
  - If you are in this room right now and paying attention you might learn something. (Hypothetical: Maybe it is Maybe it Isn't)
- The determining factor in which function a condition is serving is the mood on the verb following the condition. According to the *Oxford English Dictionary* conditions followed by the **indicative mood** are FACT stating.

A. *conj.*

I. Introducing a clause of condition or supposition (the protasis of a conditional sentence).

On condition that; given or granted that; in (the) case that; supposing that; on the supposition that.

1. *With the conditional clause or protasis in the indicative.* The indicative after *if* implies that the speaker expresses no adverse opinion as to the truth of the statement in the clause; it is consistent with his acceptance of it.

In modern use the indicative is preferred to the subjunctive in cases which lie near the border-line of 1 and 2.

- “With the conditional clause . . . in the indicative. **The indicative after if implies that the speaker expresses no adverse opinion as to the truth of the statement in the clause; it is consistent with his acceptance of it.**”
- The entry for the word “indicative” reads as follows:

A. *adj.*

1.

a. *Grammar.* That points out, states, or declares: applied to that mood of a verb of which the essential function is to state a relation of objective fact between the subject and predicate (as opposed to a relation merely conceived, thought of, or wished, by the speaker).

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1530 J. PALSGRAVE *Lesclarcissement* 84 The indicative mode they use whan they shewe or tell a thyng to be done.

1669 J. MILTON *Accedence* 17 The Indicative Mood sheweth or declareth, as *Laudo* I praise.

1705 E. HICKERINGILL *Priest-craft* 13 The original Greek Word, translated *search*, may as well be translated in the Indicative Mood.

1876 C. P. MASON *Eng. Gram.* (ed. 21) 62 (*note*) In modern English it is getting . . . more and more common to use the Indicative Mood in cases where the Subjunctive would be more correct.

1892 H. SWEET *New Eng. Gram.* I. 105 The statement *he comes* is in the 'indicative' mood.

(Hide quotations)

b. Of a form of statement: Having the verb in the indicative mood; assertive of objective fact.

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- “Gram. That points out, states, or declares: applied to that mood of a verb of which the essential function is **to state a relation of objective fact between the subject and predicate** (as opposed to a relation merely conceived, thought of, or wished, by the speaker).” (*OED*)

- “Of a form of statement: Having the verb in the indicative mood; **assertive of objective fact.**” (*OED*)
- Conditions of this TYPE are known as indicative conditional statements and are FACT stating, i.e., IF AND ITS TRUE.
- In contrast, a condition with a verb in the **subjunctive mood** following “if” serves a completely different function. The *Oxford English Dictionary* entry for “if” identified these TYPES of conditions as well.
  - “The subjunctive after if implies that the speaker guards himself from endorsing the truth or realization of the statement; it is consistent with his doubt of it.”
- Likewise, the *OED* defines **subjunctive** as:

A. *adj.*



1.

a. *Grammar.* Designating or relating to a verbal mood that refers to an action or state as conceived (rather than as a fact) and is therefore used chiefly to express a wish, command, exhortation, or a contingent, hypothetical, or prospective event. Also: (of a verb or form) belonging to this mood. Also in extended use. Frequently as postmodifier. Cf. *CONJUNCTIVE adj.* 3c.

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- “That is subjoined or dependent. “
- “Designating a mood the forms of which are employed to denote an action or a state as conceived (**and not as a fact**) and therefore used to express a wish, command, exhortation, or a contingent, hypothetical, or prospective event.”
- So, a subjunctive conditional statement means to express DOUBT and can be summarized as, IF MAYBE IT IS MAYBE IT ISN’T.
- Colossians 3:1—what is the function this condition? Is Paul calling into question whether the Colossians are risen with Christ? No, he is telling them based on the FACT that they are risen with him to seek those things which are above.
  - Colossians 2:12—established the FACT that the Colossians ARE RISEN WITH HIM.
- Colossians 3:1—takes the established FACT from chapter 2 and informs the Colossian how-to live-in light of it.
  - The function of the condition here is IF AND ITS TRUE.
- Romans 7:2—so the wife being bound by the law to her husband is subject to whether he is alive or not. So, if the husband is alive is the wife subject to the law of the husband? Yes. The only way the wife is loosed from the law of the husband is if the husband is dead.

- This example its subjunctive. In other words, the satisfaction of the condition is subject to the circumstances. As long as the husband is alive is the wife bound to the husband? Yes. If the husband is dead is the wife loosed from the law of the husband? Yes.
  - The function of the condition here is MAYBE IT IS MAYBE IT ISN'T.
- Helpful Hint—when dealing with a conditional statement always ask yourself the following question, “what type of condition am I dealing with?” Does the condition call anything into question or establish the absolute connection between two things?
  - If—and it’s true?
    - OR
  - If—maybe it is maybe it isn’t?
- Colossians 1:23—if one understands the condition in verse 23 to be a subjunctive condition (Maybe It is Maybe It Isn’t) they are placing doubt upon saints being presented “holy, unblameable, and unreprouvable in his sight” in verse 22.
- In contrast, if one views the condition in verse 23 as a indicative statement of FACT, they are establishing the factual connection between verses 22 and 23. In other words, the reason believers are “holy, unblameable, and unreprouvable is his sight” is because they will as a matter of FACT continue and not be moved away from the hope of the gospel in verse 23.
- Textually, the verb “continue” following the condition in verse 23 is in the indicative mood. According to the rules of grammar in both English and Greek, this grammatical structure serves to establish the objective FACTUAL relationship between two things.

English (KJV) [?]	Strong's	ROOT & Transliterated		Parsing
If	G1489	εἴγε εἴγε eige		COND
ye continue <b>PHRASE</b>	G1961	ἐπιμένετε ἐπιμένω epimenō		V-PAI-2P

minister;

INTERLINEAR BIBLES CROSS-REFS COMMENTARIES DICTIONARIES MISC

Textus Receptus

1:23 εἶγε ἐπιμένετε τῇ πίστει τεθεμελιωμένοι καὶ ἑδραῖοι καὶ μὴ μετακινούμενοι ἀπὸ τῆς ἐλπίδος τοῦ εὐαγγελίου οὗ ἠκούσατε τοῦ κηρυχθέντος ἐν πάσῃ τῇ κτίσει τῇ ὑπὸ τὸν οὐρανόν οὗ ἑγενόμην Παῦλος διάκονος

Interlinear Reverse Interlinear

English (KJV) [?]	Strong's	Inflected, Root & Transliterated
If	g1489	εἶγε εἶγε eige
ye continue	g1961	ἐπιμένετε ἐπιμένω epimenō

PHRASE

V-PAI-2P

**Parsing Information**

Inflected Word: ἐπιμένετε

Root Form: ἐπιμένω

Code: V-PAI-2P

Long: Verb - Present Active Indicative - 2nd Person Plural

Speech: [Verb](#)

Tense: [Present](#)

Voice: [Active](#)

Mood: [Indicative](#)

Person: [2nd Person](#)

Number: [Plural](#)

**Additional Resources**

[Greek Verbs](#)

[Greek Grammar](#)

**Parsing Information**

Inflected Word: ἐπιμένετε

Root Form: ἐπιμένω

Code: V-PAI-2P

Long: Verb - Present Active Indicative - 2nd Person Plural

Speech: [Verb](#)

Tense: [Present](#)

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