



Sunday, July 26, 2020—Colossians 1:23 If Ye Continue, Part 2

Introduction/Review

- Last Sunday we finished looking at Colossians 1:22 and began looking at the conditional statement in verse 23.
- 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.
- 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.
- Last Sunday we looked at two different types of conditions: 1) Indicative Statements of Fact and 2) Subjunctive Statements of Doubt.
 - 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.
 - “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:
 - “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)
- 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:
 - “That is subjoined or dependent. “
 - “Grammar. 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.”
- 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 PHRASE	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

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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

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Colossians 1:23

- In order to confirm whether this is the proper understanding of the condition in verse 23 one needs to examine the context.

- Colossians 1:12-14—Paul uses the past tense to discuss accomplished FACTS as they pertain to Colossians as members of the body of Christ.
 - Verse 12—“hath made us meet”
 - Verse 13—“hath delivered”
 - Verse 13—“hath translated”
 - Verse 14—“have redemption” & “forgiveness of sins”
- Colossians 1:15-20—outlines FACTS pertaining to the creative and redemptive work of Christ as well as his position of preeminence over all things in relation to the body of Christ.
- Colossians 1:21—directs the reader’s attention back to the Colossians themselves. It points out their past and contrasts it with their present situation.
 - Past—“were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works”
 - Present—“yet now hath he reconciled.”
- In the present, the Colossians are in the state of having been “reconciled.” In other words, their reconciliation is a present accomplished FACT in verse 21.
- Colossians 1:22—how was the reconciliation of the Colossians accomplished? “In the body of his flesh through death.” It was by placing their faith in the sacrificial death of Christ for their sins that the Colossians were reconciled.
- Why was this reconciliation accomplished? To present the Colossians “holy, and unblameable, and unreprouable in his sight.” Positionally, all believers are holy, unblameable, and unreprouable in his sight.
 - Galatians 3:27—all reconciled believers have put on Christ. When God the father looks at us he sees Christ.
- Colossians 1:23—the presentation spoken of in verse 22 is based upon the FACT that the Colossians will continue in the faith, grounded, and settled in verse 23. The verb “continue” is a present tense indicative statement, indicating that the Colossians saints were already continuing at the time of Paul’s writing.
- Paul is not saying that the Colossians might possibly one day be presented holy, unblameable, and unreprouable if they continue in a subjunctive sense and meet the conditions. Paul is not saying, “maybe you will continue or maybe you won’t, we need to wait and see how it turns out.”

- Rather, Paul is saying on the basis of these established FACT that the Colossians will continue they are presented accordingly in verse 22. If Paul is saying in verse 23 that only those who meet the conditions will be presented “unblameable” in verse 22 than he is directly contradicting something he said elsewhere in his epistles.
 - I Corinthians 1:8—being presented “blameless” is not conditioned upon one’s behavior but upon Christ accomplished work.
- Colossians 1:23—everything in this context is talking about Christ work on our behalf.
- Can the Colossians be moved away “from the hope of the gospel?” Notice that the hope of gospel is embedded within the gospel that they had “heard” and believed.
 - Colossians 1:5-6—the hope of the gospel is contained within the word of the truth of the gospel which the Colossians had already heard, received, and believed.
- Colossians 1:23—can the Colossians be moved away from their hope which is laid up for them in heaven?
 - Positionally, the Colossians cannot walk away from what they were freely given in Christ. Practically, they could lose sight of it and thereby fail to walk by faith in light of it. But they cannot undo what was imbedded within the truth of the gospel they had received.