

Sunday, August 9, 2020—Colossians 1:23 Every Creature Under Heaven

Introduction

- Two weeks ago, we finished our discussion of the conditional statement in Colossians 1:23. In doing so, we looked at the first half of verse 23 and concluded the following.
- Colossians 1:23—everything in this context is talking about Christ work on our behalf.
 - Verse 12—“hath made us meet”
 - Verse 13—“hath delivered”
 - Verse 13—“hath translated”
 - Verse 14—“have redemption” & “forgiveness of sins”
 - Verses 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.
 - Verse 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.
 - Verse 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 unreprouvable in his sight.” Positionally, all believers are holy, unblamable, and unreprouvable in his sight.
- Colossians 1:23—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.
- During the rest of our time together lets focus on the second half of verse 23.

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;**
- In Paul’s epistles, the expression “the faith” found in verse 23 is often used to refer to the body of Doctrine committed to Paul’s trust.
 - Romans 1:5
 - I Corinthians 16:13
 - Ephesians 4:13
 - Colossians 2:7
 - I Timothy 4:1, 5:8, 6:10, 6:21
- Colossians 1:23—the portion of “the faith” that this verse is focusing on is “the gospel” that Paul preached to “every creature which is under heaven.”
 - Romans 15:19-21
 - Romans 1:16—the power of God unto salvation is in “gospel of Christ.”
 - Romans 1:18-32—the Gentiles are sinners and under God’s wrath
 - Romans 3:1—the Jews are no better than the gentiles and are also under God’s wrath.
 - Romans 3:19—all the world is guilty before God.
 - Galatians 2:2—Paul had an every man ministry “among the Gentiles.”
 - Galatians 2:7—to minister “the gospel of the uncircumcision” which was a different gospel from the “gospel of the circumcision” committed to Peter and the 12.

- Acts 20:24
- Colossians 1:23—Paul was made a minister of the gospel that had been committed to his trust.
 - Romans 16:25—my gospel
 - I Corinthians 9:16-18—Paul had a dispensation of the gospel committed unto him.
 - Titus 1:2-3
- Colossians 1:23—contextually the end of verse 23 also serves as a transition into Paul’s discussion of the mystery in the last paragraph of chapter 1.
 - Colossians 1:25
- II Corinthians 5:14—Christ died for all that is every man, woman, and child regardless of _____. Paul’s gospel is not focused on groups but on individuals in every nation, people group, and culture for the last 2,000 years. The gospel that we preach meets the need of every human heart and fills up the individual’s life with Christ and our completeness in Him.
- All souls matter to God. Christ died for all.
- I Timothy 2:4—God’s will is for all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the trust. Lets made the issue the issue and take our ambassadorship seriously.