

sermon notes

May 10, 2026 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church | **Preeminence**
“The Power of Reconciliation” | **Colossians 1:21-23**

Those reconciled to God the Father through Christ...

- 1) _____ their former alienation (1:21)
- 2) _____ in Christ’s finished work (1:22a)
- 3) _____ cleansed before God (1:22b)
- 4) _____ steadfast in faith (1:23)

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read Colossians 1:21–23. How does this passage build on the Christ-hymn of Colossians 1:15–20? How is reconciliation with God emphasized in both passages? What does reconciliation with God look like? How did it happen? What are its effects?

What is our status before God apart from Christ? What is the destiny of those who are apart from Christ? Paul presents two categories regarding our relationship to God: 1) In Christ (i.e., friend of God) and 2) Apart from Christ (i.e., enemy of God). Is there any other category? How do you know?

GET PERSONAL

Paul says that Christians are presented by Christ as holy and blameless before the Lord. Do you feel holy before the Lord? How is it possible for a sinful person to be “presented” as holy and blameless before God? Is this a present reality or a future reality? How might a Colossians 1:22 understanding of your standing before God impact your daily battle against sin and the flesh?

Paul advocates for the perseverance of the saints in Colossians 1:23. He says, “if indeed you continue in the faith.” Consider your own life. Has your faith in Christ produced perseverance? Has the Lord carried you through seasons of hardship, suffering, or doubt? How has the Holy Spirit preserved you? What can be said of those who do not persevere in faith and who shift away from the hope of the gospel? Did those individuals lose their salvation, or does their departure reveal something else (see 1 John 2:19; cf. Matt 7:21–23; John 8:31; John 10:27–29; Heb 3:14)?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

What is your standing before the Lord right now? Are you in Christ? Reread Colossians 1:20–22. Is this true of you? When you struggle this week with sin, guilt, or doubts about your identity in Christ, how might you remind yourself of your standing before the Lord? What song, hymn, or Scripture passage could serve as a faith-building reminder of the gospel?

ADVANCED QUESTIONS FOR DEEPER STUDY

Paul says that the Colossians were once alienated and hostile to God and performing evil deeds (1:21). Surely, Paul wasn’t talking about the children or the babies in the church family. Or was he? Are we born in sin as enemies of God (see Ps 51:5; Rom 3:10–23; Rom 5:12–19; 1 Cor 15:21–22; Eph 2:1–3)? What about those who have never heard the name of Jesus? Are they enemies of God? Are they alienated from Him and still under His judgment?