

## Reconciliation Colossians 1:19 – 23

**Intro: The book of Colossians is a book that Highlights a major Biblical theme – that is THE PREMINENCE OF CHRIST !!!!**

A) The book divides itself into 3 major sections

- #1 Ch. 1 **The Truth about the Christ**
- #2 Ch. 2 **The Truth about the Cults**
- #3 Ch. 3-4 **The Truth about the**

### Church

B) We have been studying Ch. 1 for the last several weeks –last week we focused on v.15-19

Where Paul **Enlarged our view** of Christ –

1) **3 Areas:** His relationship to the Father – *Image of the invisible....*

C) HIS relationship to Creation – He is the *creator and the Sustainer of ALL THINGS*

D) HIS relationship to the Church – *That He is the Head –*

**That portion of Scripture focused largely on the Deity of Christ**

A) Well Paul moves from talking about the **Deity of Christ** to talking about the **DEATH OF CHRIST** RD v. 19-23

On April 15, 1912, the White Star ocean Liner the Titanic raised her stern high above the frigid waters of the North Atlantic and began a very fluid, **but violent decent which would end at the oceans floor.** We have some amazing first hand accounts of the event. From those eyewitness accounts you see the extremes of human behavior, from **abysmal cowardice, to beautiful sacrificial love.**

But with the Titanic gone and the life boats spread upon the icy waters among the crying drowning swimmers, the story turns to **pure cowardice and heartless self-centeredness.**

See There were **18 lifeboats** that we were only **half full** that could have gone back to rescue some of the 1600 people who could not get into the lifeboats.

**But of those 1600 people, only 13 were rescued.** In boat no.5, when Third Officer Pitman heard the anguished cries he turned the boat around and shouted, *now pull towards the wreck.* But the passengers protested, *“why should we loose our lives in a useless attempt to save others from the ship?”* Pitman gave in, for the next hour the 40 people in that boat that could have held 65 listen to the cries of dying people, some no more then 200 yards away.

In the No. 2 boat, Fourth officer Boxhall asked the ladies in his boat if they wanted to go back and rescue others, they resisted and demanded that they not go back, he gave in they sat and listened while people froze to death and drowned all around them.

In the No. 6 boat it was different, there the ladies wanted to go back and search for their loved ones, but Quartermaster Hitchens refused, painting a vivid picture of what would happen if a mob of drowning people could get to their boat, so they sat and listened to the anguished cries of dying men and woman and children.

Out of the 18 boats, only one, the No. 14 boat returned to help and this was an hour after the Titanic had already sank. The skipper said that they went back after the thrashing crowd had thinned out a bit.

B) Such a sad story because - What you had there were **people who had the MEANS** to rescue, the **CAPACITY** to rescue, but didn't have the **HEART** to rescue.

They knew what was happening, but didn't do anything about it.

**C) How different that is from God, God knows this about the Human Race, we need to be rescued,**

1) our ship has gone down, we have been thrust into the icy waters of life and for a brief moment, we are primed for rescue.

**D) But like a vapor, that opportunity will be gone, so God doesn't waste any time, He is on it, He is there with the salvation that we need.**

1. Paul paints a picture of that RESCUE in our text today: in what is called Reconciliation It's **one aspect of that salvation** that we are going to think about today, **and that is the concept of reconciliation.**

**If you are taking notes today there are 4 things that I want to consider about the wonderful truth of reconciliation**

A) 1<sup>st</sup> what does Reconciliation mean / 2<sup>nd</sup> why did we need to be reconciled / 3<sup>rd</sup> The way of Reconciliation / 4<sup>th</sup> The Purpose/ 5<sup>th</sup> The Condition

B) 1<sup>st</sup> What does reconciliation mean: Well let's consider the opposite of Reconciliation – **ESTRANGED / SEPERATED / DIVORCED**

C) Reconciliation: Means to **restore to friendship or harmony**

1) Those who are at war are brought together in peace.

**Leads us to Consider - #2 Why did we need Reconciliation ?**

A) Well Paul describes our spiritual condition in v.21 – He says that we were alienated from God & Enemies of God because of our sin

*NIV <sup>21</sup>Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.*

B) Garden – Sin created a separation – Alienated – Thru which Man became an enemy of God

C) Now For many of you – You can identify with that – You look at your former life – **BC days** – Far from God –

1) You were in rebellion – living to please yourself – God was your enemy – He was the one who made you feel bad about your sin

D) He was the one who laid out the rules and Regulations – you were supposed to live by – You can say easily that was me

1) God was the **COSMIC KILL JOY** – you wanted to AVOID at all cost !

**But for some of us – that was not the case – Little harder to grasp: I admit for a long time I struggled with this concept – the enemy of God**

A) I never considered myself to be God's enemy – I believed in Him – I went to Church mainly because I was forced to / but I was there.

B) I thought about God sometimes – I might have been alienated from Him – **certainly didn't feel close – but I wasn't his enemy**

1) I was a good person trying to do the right things – Didn't smoke or Chew or go with girls that do - Didn't do drugs /or commit crimes – **all right guy**

C) But there is one thing here that Paul says – **that nailed me**

1) Enemies **in your mind by wicked works** – I may have not did the wicked stuff that others did – But I sure thought about it

D) This is what Jesus made oh so clear – It is not just your actions that condemn – you but it is your **ATTITUDES !!!!**

1) What you are thinking – Adultery? How about LUST ? SAME

**My mind still – reveals the wickedness of my Flesh –**

A)The other day I am driving down the road – For no apparent reason – Feelings of **intense hatred** toward the person in the car next to me

B) I don't even know the guy but suddenly – I am gritting my teeth thinking you know what that **Guy looks like trouble** –

1) I am going to pull him over and beat the tar out of him –

C) Suddenly it hits me : What in the world am I thinking – **Why am I so agitated - - what is Up**

**So Paul makes it clear – We were alienated from God & enemies of God in our minds –**

A) See Jesus made it clear – **if you are not for me – You are against me**

In other words – There is no NEUTRAL GROUND –

B) No in between spot :Amos 3:3 *How can two walk together, unless they are agreed?*

C) And if we are honest – None of us prior to coming to Christ were in agreement with God's will and God's way –

1) Not for Him – then we are against Him !!!

D) So that is why we were in need of Reconciliation: We were alienated from God because of our sin & Enemies of God – by our wicked thoughts and actions

Now there are 5 words used in the Bible to describe what happened to us when we were Saved : **Justification/ Redemption/ Forgiveness / Adoption/ and this word Reconciliation**

A) **In Justification** a sinner stands before God guilty and condemned, but is declared righteous. That's justification.

B) **In Redemption** a persons stands before God as slave to sin and their own flesh, and is set free.

1) **In forgiveness** we stand before God as debtors, but God pays the debt and relieves you of it.

C) **In Adoption**, you stand before God a stranger, outside of the household of God, but then are made a daughter or a son of God.

1) Lastly, **in Reconciliation**, we stand before God as enemies, and being reconciled, we are made the friends of God.

3<sup>rd</sup> We want to consider the Way of Reconciliation: How it was Provided V.19 *"It pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell."*

A)The word fullness is *plērōma*: It means that all Divine Power and attributes of God were in Jesus.

B) The Fullness of who God is in every respect was in Jesus When He was here on this earth.

1) Colossians 2:9 makes it even more clear when it says *"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form."*

C) One Commentator: Jesus Christ is the "exhaustion of God."

**So it pleased the Father that all the Fullness would be in Christ – for this Reason that He might Reconcile us to God –**

A) This in what Paul meant in 2 Cor 5 :19 *God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself:*

B) Now This is the most astounding things of all concerning the gospel is that the One offended is the One who provided the atonement.

1) We offended God – we were enemies of God -

C) But It wasn't that the offender finally one day said, *"Oh this is wrong. I shouldn't be this way. I've offended God. What a horrible thing that I've done. I'm going to go back and apologize and ask for forgiveness."*

D) That's not the way it happened. Man remained in his hostility against God.

1) But the One who was offended provided for the offender.

E) That's what Paul said there in **Romans 5:10**, *"when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son."*

**He shed his BLOOD This is the amazing demonstration of God's love.** A) For one who is being rebelled against to step forward and say, *"I want peace, and I'm going to make a peace offering, a peace offering that is priceless. I'm going to give My Son in order to make peace with you."*

B) This is unthinkable. It's unbelievable. It's something that you could never dream up in a million, billion years. This is what God did.

C) We started the war, so to speak, but God said, *"I'm going to make peace. I'm going to offer you peace, and I'm going to do it by giving My Son up to die in your place."*

D) You see, that's the marvel of the gospel. God did not have to do any of these things. God could have rightfully said, *"I'm finished with these rebels"*

**E) He could have wiped out the world, and every trace of man to never be remembered again. He could have started over again.**

1) But He did not do that. Instead, He chooses to demonstrate His love by sending His Son to die in the place of rebels,

2) That is an act of love that we cannot really fully understand. It's just...it's beyond our ability to conceive of.

**So God made the way for Reconciliation: The one who was offended Provided for the Offender.**

**A) Now this is also what is mind boggling: God did all of that knowing full well – that in the masses of Humanity – thru the ages of time**

**B) There would be a MINORITY – that would receive the Reconciliation that He offered.**

C) God is saying to all men today, "I am reconciled to you. Now will you be reconciled to Me?" That is the decision a man must make.

**That leads us to our 4<sup>th</sup> Point: What is the Purpose of this Reconciliation**

***v.22 to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight --***

**A) Because of the work of JC we can be presented to God as being Holy Blameless and above Reproach - Shout Hallelujah – AMEN**

**B) Holy – means to be SET APART – HIS OWN SPECIAL PEOPLE**

**C) Blameless = With out Blemish**

1) The word was applied to the temple sacrifices which had to be without blemish.

D) It is amazing that God looks at His children and sees no blemish on them!

1) We stand before the Lord in the Perfect Righteousness of Christ

E) Above Reproach means "free from accusation{ Once we have been reconciled to God, no charges can be brought against us-  
1) Satan the Accuser of the Brethren is silenced  
- PTL .....

**Jude 24-25 *Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, 25 To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.***

**A) That my friends is the Glorious Promise of Reconciliation:**

**B) But the last thing that I want you to note here is that – there is a condition attached to all of this here.**

1) God has taken us from this place of being hopeless, helpless, in hatred of Him. He's had mercy on us. He's forgiven us.

C) He's brought us into this new standing. And one day He will present us to Himself holy, sanctified, blameless, without anything against us,

1) above reproach completely. But this is the condition,

**Col 1:23 *if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.***

D) The condition is to be remaining in the faith, to be steadfast in the faith. You see, outside of Jesus Christ, I have nothing but condemnation.

**1) If you don't continue in the faith it is an uncertain future.**

**Pastor Rob are you saying that a person can lose their Salvation? Is that what you believe ? No – Listen close I don't believe a person can lose....**

**A) The Bible is full of Scriptures that talk about the Security of the believer – God wants us to be Secure in our salvation**

**B) Romans 8** *We are told that nothing can separate us from the Love of God*

1) Jn 10:28 *His Sheep – no one can snatch us out of His Hand / Eph. We read that we are SEALED unto the day of Redemption*

C) Many others scriptures – Our Security – Impossible to Lose .....

1) Also Believe the Bible makes it clear – Impossible to Fall away – Jude

Not going to slip out of his Care – Not going to fall thru the Cracks

**Now having said that: Listen close – I do believe that the Bible makes it clear that it is Possible for people – to Leave their Salvation**

**A) Can't lose it – but you can leave it – Can't fall away – but you can walk – away: 2 Tim 4:10 *Demas Forsaken the faith having loved this present world***

**B) 1 Tim 4:1 Paul makes this Statement about the days that we live in: *In the last days some will Depart from the faith***

**C) IN Heb 10: v26 we are given this warning : *For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries***

**D) Now this is what we need to understand about the book of Hebrews – Hebrews was written to Jewish believers who because of persecution – were considering – leaving Christ – and going back into Judaism{ Sin willfully**

**E) Were they saved ? Heb 3:1 *Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,***

**I don't think you can get any more saved than that !!!! – And Yet to those same people – he says *if you sin willfully – if you deny Christ - after you have received the Knowledge of the truth - , there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries***

**A) The Writer of Hebrews is saying the same thing that Paul is saying here in Colossians – You need to continue in the Faith!!!!**

**B) Jn 15 : You are Secure – as long as you Abide / Jude 21 Keep yourself in the Love of God**

**1) Heb 2:1 *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. V.3 How escape if neglect .....***

**So can I lose my salvation – No – Can I leave it Yes**

A) Really the issue is this: We need to understand the essence of Salvation –

B) When we talk about salvation – We often think only in terms of Not going to Hell – and now going to Heaven

1) But the Biblical view of Salvation is much broader than that !!! Seen clearly in this idea of Reconciliation –

C) Once Alienated – Now Close – Once – Enemies – now Friends

1) The very essence of Salvation – hovers around RELATIONSHIP

D) V. 13 *He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,*

**If you recall – we talked about the word – Delivered there is rescued – Brought out of Darkness for the purpose of being brought into the light**

A) Brought out of the WORLD – purpose of being brought into the kingdom

Brought out of Satan's Domain – to be brought into the Family

B) God's plan all along – is that Closeness – relationship – that is the way that He has always viewed Salvation

C) Jn 17:3 *And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.4*

D) Knowing God – Living in relationship w/ God

**Jn 10: I am the good shepherd – I have Come that you might have life and that more abundantly**

A) He describes that life : *27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.*

**B) There is a relationship between the shepherd and the Sheep – they know his voice – they follow**

**So for the person who has been brought out of darkness – who decides they are not going to follow – go back into darkness – is there any security? Are they still Reconciled ?**

A) No they make themselves alienated from God once again –

1 John 1:6 *If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth* {Walk = lifestyle { Practice

B) I don't want to ever give that person a false sense of security because they prayed a prayer 5yrs ago –

1) The essence of Salvation is living in a relationship with God – that Culminates in Heaven

*7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

A) Listen I know there are those who struggle with this – some reasons – wayward – son or daughter or friend or loved one

B) We want to believe they are still going to heaven – Pray for them and warn them

C) Some of you are in that place right now – You are living in sin – you are walking in darkness – and there is no assurance what so ever in your heart

D) You are depressed – Anxious – Listen **GOD DOES NOT WANT YOU TO LIVE THAT WAY!!!!!!**