

## Colossians, Chapter One, Lesson Five

HOLY AND BLAMELESS Colossians 1:19-23

### STIMULATE

\*\* Last week we answered two fundamental questions for the Christian life. First, where do we live? And second, to Whom do we belong?

\*\* So, where do we live?

"In His Kingdom"

\*\* And to Whom do we belong?

Jesus Christ . . .

1) Redeemer 2) God 3) Highest Rank 4) Creator  
5) Sustainer 6) Administrator (prototokos)

\*\* Which of those six characteristics of Christ had the greatest impact upon your daily walk with Him?

For myself, I became acutely aware of the fact that He is my sustainer. He is always with me and faithful to carry me through any trial or test.

### MOTIVATE

\*\* Today the apostle Paul continues to draw a word picture for us of our Lord. As he does we gain an even greater understanding of Christ and all that He has accomplished on our behalf. Paul will share with us the Lord's desire for us to be both "**Holy and Blameless**" in our daily life. Please open your Bibles to Colossians 1:19-23 as we turn our attention to the Word of God.

Read Passage (V.19-23)

Opening Prayer

### *Holy and Blameless*

### INVESTIGATE

**V.19** \*\* In our last study Paul was speaking of the Son, of Whom is he speaking as he introduces our passage for today?

"...the Father..."

\*\* What does Paul tell us about the Father?

It was His "good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in Him (Jesus Christ)".

The term "fulness" is *pleroma* in the Greek and is referring to divine powers and attributes. The Gnostic heretics of Paul's day tried to divide up these divine attributes among various emanations of their supposed gods. Paul is here correcting that heresy by saying that it gave God pleasure to have all deity dwell in His Son - Jesus Christ.

\*\* Does Scripture indicate anywhere else that God is pleased to have all of deity dwelling in Christ?

Absolutely! - cf. Matthew 3:17 - Baptism of Jesus, Matthew 17:5 - Transfiguration, John 17:5 - Upper Room Prayer, with Colossians 2:9 - "For in Him..."

**V.20** \*\* Having established the deity of Christ, what does Paul now say that the Father did through Him?

He reconciled "all things to Himself".

\*\* What does the word reconcile mean?

*apokatalasso* - lit. "to reconcile completely"

Webster: "to cause to become friendly or peaceable again; to bring into agreement or harmony."

\*\* Why did we need reconciling?

We were separated from God by our sin!  
cf. V.21 and Romans 5:10, Ephesians 2:3 and 12

\*\* Did the Father reconcile Christians only?

No - "all things" were reconciled through Christ.  
That is every created thing (V.16). The need - cf. Romans 8:18-22, Genesis 3:17-18 and 5:29

Scripture looks forward to that time when all of creation will be reconciled to God, even those things on earth or things in heaven. cf. Isaiah 60:19-20, 65:25, 2Peter 3:13, Revelation 21:1

\*\* Is Paul saying that all men will be saved? Is this speaking of a Universalism form of salvation?

Absolutely not! Matthew 25:41 and 46, Revelation 20:10-15 both speak of the destruction of those souls who rejected the free gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. Taken in context, Paul is saying that Christ created all things and that the Father reconciled those same things to Himself through the work of Christ on the cross. Mankind can refuse that reconciliation by holding fast to their sin!

**V.21** \*\* In verse 21, Paul moves from creation in general to the specific needs of the Colossians. What three desperate conditions do you see in this verse which describe our state-of-mind prior to being reconciled?

**1) We were alienated from God** - "to make unfriendly where attachment formerly existed", and this of course was caused by sin. cf. James 4:4 and 1Peter 1:1 for the reversal of this process.

**2) We were hostile toward God** - "overt antagonism, resistance in thought or principle".  
cf. Luke 11:53-54, Acts 26:9 and Romans 8:6-7

**3) We were engaged in evil deeds** - cf. John 3:19 and Isaiah 64:6

\*\* Now that we have been reconciled to God, by His grace, what new dynamic have our deeds taken on?

We are now zealous to do those deeds designed by the Lord, which will bring Him the greatest glory! cf. Titus 2:14 and John 3:21

**V.22** \*\* Through what vessel does God reconcile us to Himself?

In the fleshly body of Jesus Christ, through His death on our behalf!  
cf. Philippians 2:7-8 and Hebrews 10:10

\*\* This amazing sacrifice for our souls was to have a life changing impact upon us, what is it?

That we would be "**Holy and Blameless**" as we stand before Him! cf. Romans 6:10-11

\*\* What is the difference between those two important terms used here by Paul?

**Holy** - hagios means to be separated from sin and set apart to God (Ephesians 1:4).

**Blameless** - amomos means without blemish. It was used in the Greek Septuagint to speak of sacrificial animals and in the New Testament it referred to Christ as the spotless Lamb of God (Hebrews 9:14).

\*\* We know from our understanding of 1Timothy 3:2 and Titus 1:6 that an elder is to live his life "above reproach". How is the life of every Christian different?

It is not!! All Christians should have an "unindictable" lifestyle which is "**Holy and Blameless**" and above reproach.

\*\* Can we accomplish that perfect standing before God on our own?

No - He accomplished it for us through the work of Christ on the cross (2Corinthians 5:21), but we are to live our lives in pursuit of that standard.

**V.23** \*\* Those who refer to themselves as Christians are the recipients of this gracious standing before God, they are the ones He calls both "**Holy and Blameless**". But there is a qualifier to this gracious standing, what is it?

"...if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel..."

If we are genuine, living in a relationship with Jesus Christ and not just acting religious, He will bring us to glory! cf. 2Timothy 4:7, Matthew 24:10-13

\*\* For the true child of God, Who is it that keeps us faithful to the end?

It is Christ Himself - "...He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."  
(Philippians 1:6) cf. Hebrews 12:2

\*\* For our part, what can we do to be able to stand firm on the truth of the gospel?

We must spend our lives putting "on the full armor of God". (Ephesians 6:11 and 6:13-17)

\*\* By the time of this writing to the Colossians, how much of the world had heard the gospel?

All of it! Paul was writing from his Roman prison and the gospel had been proclaimed throughout the then known world. cf. V.6 with Matthew 28:19, Revelation 14:6-7

\*\* Finally - How does Paul relate to this wonderful saving gospel of Christ?

He knew that he had been "made a minister" of the gospel, for which he would willingly give his life. cf. Romans 1:16 and 2Timothy 1:8

### **EXTRICATE**

\*\* What have we seen in today's passage regarding the Deity of Christ?

"...it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fulness to dwell in [Christ]..."

\*\* As fully God incarnate, how did Christ improve our relationship to the Father?

He reconciled us to Him, through the blood of His cross!

### **DELINEATE**

\*\* What was our state-of-mind prior to God's gracious reconciliation?

We were: **1) alienated, 2) hostile, 3) engaged in evil deeds**

\*\* What is the desire of Christ for our lives, now that He has restored us to the Father through faith?

That we be "**Holy and Blameless**" in all that we do.

### **EVALUATE**

\*\* What things could I remove from my life, or what should I be adding to my life, as I pursue the goal of living "Holy and Blameless" for Jesus Christ?

Of course, onyl you can answer that question as you prayerfully go before the Lord.

### **ACTIVATE**

\*\* Please make time this week to speak with your Lord about the proper response to what we have learned in this passage. May we go through each day of our lives together, as a people chosen by God to live "**Holy and Blameless**", above reproach for His glory.

Closing prayer