

TITLE: Colossians (Lesson 4)

TEXT: Col. 1:21-23

INTRO: “Having set forth the Person of Christ, now Paul moves to the subject of His work and ministry. Here’s a detail worth noting. In verses 15-20, Paul didn’t use the second person pronoun ‘you’ even once. But in verses 21-23, he used it five times to explain how the preeminence of Christ intersects the past, present, and future of our lives. Paul made all of this about me and about you.” *David Jeremiah*

I. (vs. 21) The work of Jesus in our *past*.

A. Our greatest need is to be *reconciled* to God!

1. Sin results in alienation and separation from God.

NOTE: Eph. 2:11-13

2. There is no peace with God as long as sin rules in our hearts.

3. Reconciliation brings peace. The relationship is restored.

NOTE: “How sad it is to be free and not know it! How much sadder it is to be free and to know it and to live like you don’t know it!” *David Jeremiah*

B. Sin destroys our earthly relationships as well.

1. Peace with God is the beginning to experience the peace of God.

NOTE: “If a man doesn’t treat his wife right, I don’t want to hear him talk about Christianity.” *D.L. Moody* See Rom. 12:17-21

II. (vs. 22) The work of Jesus in our *future*.

A. The goal for every Christian is restoration.

1. Jesus is preparing us for a great presentation.

NOTE: Eph. 5:25-32

2. Our goal is to be like Jesus.

NOTE: Rom. 8:29; I John 3:2-3

B. God conforms us by the Spirit of God using the Word of God.

1. Learning and applying Scripture must be a priority for growth.

NOTE: Rom. 12:1-2

III. (vs. 23) The work of Jesus in our *present*.

A. Jesus is in the process of remaking us.

1. From the moment of salvation our *position* in Christ is sure.

2. God is remaking us so that our *condition* matches our *position*.

NOTE: “...we are in a remaking process in terms of our character, beliefs, priorities, values—everything is being remade by Christ working through the Spirit in us.” *D.J.*

B. Christianity is about recognizing and submitting to Christ in all things.

CONCLUSION: “The positive application of Paul’s words is this: The Gospel does not work like magic. The mind, the heart, and the will must be involved. Our minds must feed on Christ and His Word. Our hearts are to focus on Him in love. Our wills are to take their practice and pattern from Him. Present faith leads to present results ... we must fill our lives every day from Him.” *Kent Hughes*

