

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

COLOSSIANS 1:21-29

Lesson 4

REVIEW:

Colossians 1:13-20 pulls back the curtain and exposes the glory and splendor of our Lord Jesus Christ. As you meditated on these verses, what one thought caused you to pause and gaze upon His majesty?

FIRST DAY:

Read and study Colossians 1:21-29 inductively. See last page.

SECOND DAY: Read Colossians 1:21-23

1. Notice the two words that begin this segment, *And you*. Paul specifically applies the previous verses to the believers in Colosse. What does he say about them in Colossians 1:21?
 - a. To be *alienated* is to be shut out from all fellowship with God. Before we believed on Christ and received Him as Savior, we were excluded from intimacy with God because our sins separated us from Him. What does it mean to you to no longer be *alienated*, but *reconciled* to God?
 - b. Stop for a moment and consider what you were like before you became a Christian. Write three adjectives that describe your condition without Jesus.
 - 1.) How does understanding your own sin cause you to appreciate your salvation?
2. Meditate on the words *holy*, *unblameable*, and *unreproveable* in verse 22. Look them up in other versions if you desire and share what it means to you that one day Christ will present you in this way before the Father.
3. Read I Corinthians 15:57,58 and record the reason why we are to be *steadfast and immovable*.
 - a. How does the assurance of salvation and *victory in Christ* spur you to *continue in the faith*?

THIRD DAY: Read Colossians 1:23b, 24, 25

1. Paul concludes Colossians 1:23 with the phrase *whereof I Paul am made a minister*. According to verse 24a, what is Paul's attitude towards his ministry and *sufferings*?
 - a. Consider all Paul has just written about the ministry of Jesus Christ. Why do you think he was *rejoicing* to be part of that ministry even though it included imprisonment and suffering?

2. Paul wrote in verse 24b that he was to *fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for His body's sake, which is the church*. Nothing is lacking or *behind* in the sacrificial sufferings or *afflictions* of Christ on the cross. When Jesus declared *It is finished*, He was stating that He had done all that was necessary to secure our salvation. Pastor Chuck says: "Paul said by his suffering he was being identified with Jesus Christ. Through his suffering Paul was actually suffering the reproach of man against Jesus. Paul recognized the suffering he experienced wasn't toward him as a person but it was toward Jesus Christ, directed at Paul because Christ was dwelling in him." Using II Corinthians 11:24-28, list some of the sufferings Paul endured.
 - a. How does suffering for the sake of Christ help us to know Him better?

3. Paul may have been taking the opportunity to remind the Colossians that he had been called by God to reinforce his authority. In Colossians 1:25, *dispensation* speaks of one who is entrusted with the responsibility of conducting the affairs in a household. Paul felt an obligation to care for the condition of the church. Paul was diligent to fulfill his *dispensation* even while he was in prison, by writing to the churches to encourage and warn them. How have you personally benefited from Paul's writings?

4. *I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness*. Colossians 1:25 NIV How is *presenting* the entire Word of God a safeguard to false doctrines and heresies?

FIFTH DAY: Read Colossians 1:28,29

1. Colossians 1:27 closes with *Christ in you, the hope of glory*. Verse 28 opens with, *Whom we preach*. *Whom* is Paul referring to?
 - a. The false teachers in the Colossian church attempted to de-emphasize Christ. What is the effect of seeing Christ as only a part of the plan of salvation?
2. What are the two components of Paul's preaching according to Colossians 1:28?
 - a. Why is it important that a preacher both *warn* and *teach*?
 - b. What phrase is used three times in this verse?

Challenge: In light of the heretical teaching in the Colossian church, why do you think Paul emphasized this phrase?

3. Paul received his message by divine revelation. He delivered that message by divine power. Why is it important to remember Philippians 4:13 when we think about a task that God has set before us?
 - a. Describe a time when you experienced God's energy and empowering to do what you knew you could not do in your own strength?

SIXTH DAY: Review Colossians 1:21-29

1. Think of a time when you were excited about presenting a special present to someone. One day, Jesus will take pleasure in presenting you. How does that make you feel?
2. What insight did you discover from this lesson that has encouraged you?

*..and the riches and glory of His plan are for you Gentiles, too.
And this is the secret: Christ in your hearts is your only hope of glory.
- Colossians 1:27 TLB*

Colossians 1:21-29

VERSE	WHAT THE VERSE IS SAYING
21	And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled:
22	In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:
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;
24	Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:
25	Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;
26	Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:
27	To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:
28	Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:
29	Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

Who:

When:

What:

Where:

Why:

How:

What does this passage mean?

How does it apply to you personally?