

Colossians 1:19-23 (November 5, 2023) “The Reconciliation You Now Possess”

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

READ Colossians 1:19-23

1. “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell” (Colossians 1:19). This is reminiscent of what according to Exodus 40:34, Leviticus 16:2, 1 Kings 8:10 and Ezekiel 44:4?

2. “In a typical New Testament emphasis, Christ replaces the temple as the ‘place’ where God now dwells.... This is now where all that can be known and experienced of God is to be found.” (Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon p.133 by Douglas J. Moo).

Consider Moo’s statement along with Colossians 1:19, 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 and Ephesians 2:19-22. Share what this means today and what it means to you personally.

3. What does the use of the words “reconcile” and “making peace” indicate about the situation existing between God and humanity (Colossians 1:20-22, Matthew 12:30, Ephesians 2:12, Ephesians 4:18, James 4:4)? Explain if it is possible to be in neutral status with God. Do these verses bring to your attention something you hadn’t realized before?

4. How is reconciliation with God possible (Colossians 1:22, Romans 5:8-11)?

5. Being reconciled means you are “holy and blameless and above reproach” before God (Colossians 1:22, 2 Corinthians 5:18-20). How does believing these truths about yourself impact the way you live and feel about your life?

6. “After the wonderful confidence-building truths of verses 21-22, which highlight how much everything depends on what God has done for us, it can feel as if the next verse [v. 23] shatters the effect...Paul’s argument is not about our efforts but our dependence. It is about where we place our trust.” (Colossians & Philemon For You p. 56 by Mark Meynell)

What does Paul mean by “If indeed you continue in the faith...not shifting from the hope of the gospel” (Colossians 1:23). How does one do so according to Matthew 7:24-27?