

**Our Salvation and Our Savior**  
**Colossians 1:21-23**

<sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, <sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.  
— Colossians 1:21-23 (ESV)

v 21- “And you, who once were...”

Writing to adult converts

Children who were raised in a Christian home may relate to this differently—but nonetheless recognize the nature of sin and its results

“doing evil deeds”

What a person does is indicative of who he is and what his relationship to God is. Depending on translations, signs of alienation from and hostility to God are referred to in Scripture as evil deeds, being an evildoer, being lawless, etc.

Deeds are also referred to as works, fruit, etc.

“Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “So then, you will know them by their fruits.—Matt. 7:19-10

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. “Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’ “And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.’—Matt. 7: 21-23 (NASB)

“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered;—Romans 4:7 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. <sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; <sup>8</sup> it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.—Rev. 19:5-8

<sup>5</sup> But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. <sup>6</sup> He will render to each one according to his works: <sup>7</sup> to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;—Romans 2:5-7

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.—2 Corinthians 5:10

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.—Rev. 20:12

v 22 – “he has now reconciled...”

We are only reconciled to God through the death of Christ  
He did it! He reconciled us, we did not reconcile ourselves

in order to

We are saved so that we might be transformed unto the image of Christ—to be who we were always intended to be.

God does not save but neglect or decline to sanctify.

Salvation is not a “hell insurance policy” which a person can obtain and then continue to live selfishly, sinfully, alienated and hostile to God.

A person who is not being sanctified by God has not been saved by God.

Christ died in order to give us new lives that are not stained by sin and are characterized by His love and activity.

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.—Ephesians 2:8-10

Christ died to present us holy, unblemished, and blameless before him.

Holy—dedicated to the use of, belonging solely to God

Unblemished—no sinful or evil motives

Blameless—no sinful or evil behaviors

If Christ died in order to make us this way, how much should we desire to be this way?

v 23 – if indeed you continue...

<sup>9</sup> And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, <sup>10</sup> he also will drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. <sup>11</sup> And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.” <sup>12</sup> Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. <sup>13</sup> And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!”—Rev. 14:9-13

<sup>12</sup> And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold. <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved.—Matt. 24:12-13

Throughout the New Testament, Christians were enjoined to persevere, to endure to the end.

“stable and steadfast...”

Encouragement unto Christian faithfulness

“the gospel... which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven...”

The gospel of Jesus Christ has been proclaimed throughout completely throughout the spiritual realms and upon the earth—although all on earth have not heard.