

# Colossians 1:21

- 1 **Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,**

There are no apostles to the church today. *Of Jesus Christ* from the beginning of this epistle Paul declares to whom he belongs. THE FIRST LESSON IN COLOSSIANS IS TO KNOW THAT YOU BELONG TO JESUS CHRIST.

*By the will of God* we are each chosen by the will of God.

*Timothy our brother* We are each related to ONE ANOTHER by our position in Christ. The mission of every one of us requires fellow team members. No believer is an island to himself.

- 2 **To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ *who are at Colossae*: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.**

In verse 2 he mentions JESUS CHRIST and God the Father a second time. Every person who believes in JESUS CHRIST as Savior is a saint.

- 3 **We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,**

This is setting the pattern of praying for those we have never seen.

This is the third time that Paul mentions JESUS CHRIST and GOD the FATHER TOGETHER.

4 **since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints;**

This is not human love, but Spiritual love, given by God the Holy Spirit when we walk by faith in the Holy Spirit.

5 **because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel**

Every believer in JESUS CHRIST has this hope, this confidence of eternal life with JESUS CHRIST.

6 **which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as *it has been doing* in you also since the day you heard *of it* and understood the grace of God in truth;**

The Gospel is Truth that sets the believer free from the bondage of sin, law and judgement.

7 **just as you learned *it* from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf,**

8 **and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.**

Spiritual Love is the only Love God is interested in or that God accepts. He does not accept anything from the flesh.

9 **For this reason also, since the day we heard *of it*, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,**

- 10 **SO That**  
1 **you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord,**  
2 **to please *Him* in all respects,**  
3 **bearing fruit in every good work and**  
4 **increasing in the knowledge of God;**
- 11 **5 strengthened with all power, (of the Holy Spirit) according to His glorious might, FOR the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously**
- 12 **giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.**

### ***The Incomparable Christ***

- 13 **For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,**  
**1. He is the Loved Son of God.**
- 14 **in whom we have redemption,**  
**2. He is our Redeemer the forgiveness of sins.**  
**3. Because of His work on the cross we have forgiveness of all sins.**

15 **4. He is the image of the invisible God, 5. the firstborn of all creation.**

16 **6. For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—  
7. all things have been created through Him and for Him.**

17 **8. He is before all things, and  
9. in Him all things hold together.**

18 **10. He is also head of the body, the church; and 11. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.**

***JESUS CHRIST*** existed before all things

***JESUS CHRIST*** created all things

***JESUS CHRIST*** sustains the universe

***JESUS CHRIST*** is the unique person in Hypostatic Union

***JESUS CHRIST*** is God

***JESUS CHRIST*** is Creator

***JESUS CHRIST*** is the Only Savior

***JESUS CHRIST*** is the Promised Messiah of Israel

***JESUS CHRIST*** is the head of the Church

19 **For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,**

20 **and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, / say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.**

God the Father reconciles us to himself. We do not reconcile ourselves to Him by our works.

We have just noted just a few of the wonderful positions we are in Christ, but Paul now reminds us of our former state of existence.

**Reconciliation and Why it was necessary and how it was accomplished... verses 21-23.**

Paul is aware that this group of believers in Colossians were, unknowingly being exposed to false teaching. False teaching begins with a false gospel. Part of this epistle deals with aspects of the TRUE GOSPEL. Here we see why Reconciliation can only be by SIMPLE FAITH in JESUS CHRIST and why JESUS CHRIST is the ONLY OBJECT of that Faith.

21 **And although you were**  
The Greek starts out with **And You** placed in an emphatic position—indicating that the main purpose of Christ going to the cross to reconcile us with God has to do with all those who believe, especially here in Colossae.

The Present Active Participle of the absolute status of the verb **eimi**. It is always important to be reminded of just how **much** JESUS CHRIST has changed us. Because of where we were in the past (we were **formerly** in the past... **before Faith in JESUS CHRIST for Salvation...**). **Before God did 34 things to each one who believes in His Son as Savior.**

The following list ● serves to show “the wonder of the salvation that has been experienced is contrasted with the lost situation from which God has delivered them”. “The gravity of their previous condition serves to magnify the wonder of God’s mercy.” (Peter T. O’Brien)

Remember the Mercy of God is in not giving to us what we deserve; and the Grace of God is giving to us what we do not deserve.

**alienated** There are several ways of describing how we were when we were born into the human race:

## ● Enemies of God

Romans 5: 10

10 **For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**

## ● Dead in our Transgressions

Ephesians 2:5

5 **even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),**

## ● Unholy, Lawless, Rebellious, Ungodly

And then what we have here: **alienated**

And this is a strong word with deep meaning:  
to be alienated or isolated from ones affections.  
So many people are so absorbed with the Love of God  
...—**That God loves everyone**—...

Oh, people, we must be very clear on the LOVE OF GOD...  
**For in this manner God loved the world, that He gave His only son...  
We love Him because He first loved us...**  
Yes indeed... and He loved us in that He gave us His Son.

The fact that God Loves the world is not that God approves of the world. Love does not mean approval. His Love is more of a desire that He can benefit us all the more out of His Love.

Our word here—**alienated**—  
means that we were at one time estranged from His affection,  
...that is from benefitting from His Love.

This word means to be **estranged**, which means we are no longer close to God nor is God affectionate to us as sinners, unsaved.

These words *alienated* or *estranged* both express the idea that we are not in the good thinking of God or the affectioning thinking of God.

When He thinks of us in this state, His thoughts are not favorable. But we are alienated from intimacy with God.

Both words express the idea of **being distant from and being intimate** with God.

We saw a few weeks ago how rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ are based not on knowledge in itself but on intimacy with God, intimacy with Christ during our lives on earth.

Well, when we are alienated from God there is no **INTIMACY** with God. **INTIMACY** is what the personal God, Our God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is seeking to have with us.

This **INTIMACY** starts with **FAITH** and is increased by Knowledge of Him and Knowledge of JESUS CHRIST.



So, this phrase in Colossians 1:21 **And although you were formerly alienated** should cause a sadness in our hearts, that we were estranged from intimacy with God, from approval with God. Just because God loves you does not mean He approves of your state as an unbeliever or what you are doing as a believer. Nor does it mean that you have an intimacy with God. You cannot have intimacy with someone you are estranged from, alienated from.

Another important point about this word is that it is that this verb is in the Passive voice, which means **we received being alienated from God.**

#### Question:

**How** did we receive being alienated from God?

**What** did we do to be alienated from the affections of God?

**Why** are we alienated from God?

**When?** When you were born into human race. We were born alienated from God.

**How** By the imputation of AOS (Adam's Original Sin) to us when we were born.

**What** We did nothing to be alienated from God.

**Why** That He might save us and restore our affectionate position with Him.

## Condemnation precedes Salvation.

A passage that explains this alienation from God is

Ephesians 2:12

12 ***remember that you were at that time-  
separate from Christ,  
excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and  
strangers to the covenants of promise,  
having no hope and  
without God in the world.***

This describes exactly what being alienated from God means. Re-read each one of these and meditate on what they mean to you personally and how thankful we are that JESUS CHRIST redeemed us back to intimacy with God.

Now to make matters worse...  
We are not only **alienated from the One  
True God**  
**but were His enemies.**

21 **And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind**

First, I like the King James **and enemies in *your* mind.**

The reason I like this is that this Greek word is in the **plural** and when you put this Greek word in the plural it becomes one of the strongest words for being an enemy.

The Greek word means to be an enemy with hatred!

Hostile toward God. **Enemies against God.**

### **Romans 5:10**

10 **For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.**

This makes it very clear that NO ONE IS SAVED BY WORKS... by things they do that are considered good.

**We are saved  
while we are enemies against God  
and this by FAITH in JESUS CHRIST.**

Another passage that makes this so clear is **Ephesians 2:11-15**

11 **Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” *which is performed in the flesh by human hands—***

These are works of the hands and they do not save.

12 ***remember that you were at that time separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.***

13 ***But now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. **Spiritual death*****

14 ***For He Himself is our peace, who made both *groups into one* both **Jews & Gentiles** and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,***

15 ***by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, *which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances*, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, *thus* establishing peace,***

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21 ***And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged in evil deeds*,***

But notice where Paul emphasized our hostility toward God:  
**hostile in mind:**

“**Mind**” here is a metonymy for what goes on in the mind:  
thinking:

**and hostile in mind**, this refers to all your thinking, not one thought in agreement with God. All our viewpoints were hostile to God; all our values were against His values; none of our norms and standards were in agreement with His and none of our priorities were in line with the priorities of God. One passage in the bible makes this clear

### Isaiah 55: 8-9

8 **“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the LORD.**

9 **“For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways Higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.**

*AMEN*

Now, for further comfort:

*While the heavens and the earth will be destroyed*

**the Bible is unchangeable,  
His Word abideth forever.**

*You have more comfort, more stability in the Word of God  
than you do in the universe.*

*You can rest in His Faithfulness  
of your Eternal existence with Him.*

You have to make up your mind:

**Is Christ sufficient for all your needs?**

Or do you have to have other things or something else?

**This book is about the Sufficiency of JESUS CHRIST:  
to God the Father;  
and to you?**

**Is the Word of God sufficient for you?**

**Sufficient to bring you to JESUS CHRIST?**

**Sufficient to bring you to God the Father?**

Is the Word of God sufficient for **SAD** (*Stress, Anxiety, Depression*) in  
your life or do you need outside help?

So we learn so much from the true understanding of the Gospel.

