

Message Notes

Jesus: The Reconciler of All

Introduction – *“The best Christian quote ever”*

Today’s Message:

The Supremacy of Jesus: The Reconciler
Colossians 1:21-23

Who we were: Alienated Enemies (Col 1:21)

Alienated

All of Creation – Colossians 1:20, Romans 8:19-22
All of Humanity

Enemies

Evil Behavior

What actually is sin?

Romans 1:18-25

Who we are: Reconciled and Holy (Col 1:22)

But Now (Colossians 1:22a)

The Sweetest “But”s in Paul’s writings

Colossians 1:26-27

Romans 3:20-21

Romans 6:20-23

Romans 7:5-6

Ephesians 2:1-5 (ESV)

Ephesians 2:11-13

Ephesians 5:8

1 Timothy 1:9-10

The Work of Jesus ALONE (Colossians 1:22b)

Reconciled

Present you Holy

Without Blemish

Without Accusation

Reconciliation and Response

Our Response (Colossians 1:23)

The big “if”

Stated Positively – “continue in your faith”

Stated Negatively – “do not move from gospel hope”

Wait a minute! Can I lose my salvation? Is this God’s work, or mine?

Justifying Faith and Works?

Do Christians, sin?

The Biblical Answer

Philippians 1:6, 2:12-13

The question to the Colossians, and to us:

Are you moving?

Gospel Application – *“Reconciliation and Response”*

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians 1:21-23

²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation – ²³if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Romans 8:19-22

¹⁹For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. ²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Romans 1:18-25

¹⁸The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator – who is forever praised. Amen.



Because you have made us for Yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in Thee.

~ Augustine, *Confessions*, 1.1.1.

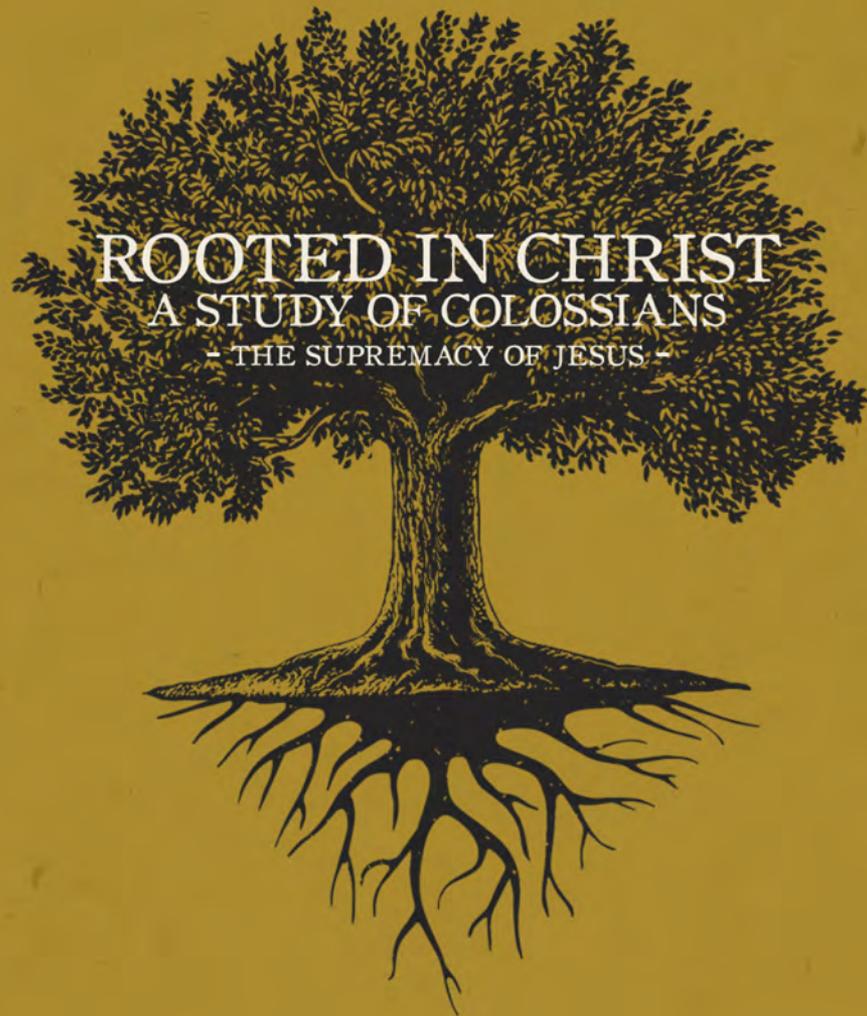


CHRISTOLOGY

The Supremacy of Jesus

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ROOTED IN CHRIST

A STUDY OF COLOSSIANS

- THE SUPREMACY OF JESUS -

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Today's Message:
Jesus: *The Reconciler of All*
Colossians 1:21-23

Who we were

Who we were

Who we are

Who we were

Who we are

Our Response

Who we were
(Past)

Who we are
(Present)

Our Response
(Future)

Jesus: The Reconciler for all

Who we were: Alienated Enemies

Colossians 1:21-23

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Jesus: The Reconciler for all

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The Creation is also Alienated

Romans 8:19-22

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What is Sin?

Romans 1:18-25

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The word “alienated” (1:21) implies isolation, loneliness, and a deep sense of not belonging. The phrase “from God” is not in the Greek text but fits a Jewish perspective that all Gentiles by definition lived apart from the one true God. It clarifies the heart of the problem besetting all humans (see Eph. 4:18). Humans have worshiped false gods and have become enslaved to sin so that the ways of the true God seem alien. Being “enemies in your minds” (cf. Rom. 5:10; 8:17) does not limit the hostility only to the intellectual aspect of our lives. When we are out of relationship with God, it mars our entire life. Thoughts and behavior are intertwined.

Chronic sinful behavior twists the mind so that it becomes even more at enmity with God, and the twisted mind hurtles us into ever greater depravity. The depraved mind then commends evil behavior as good or natural... It produces and condones fear and suspicion of others and an urge to hurt and destroy them. Those who become enemies of God become Sin's lackeys, and Sin inflicts only ruin on them as their lives spiral out of control.

~ David E. Garland, *Colossians and Philemon*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), 96.



Jesus: The Reconciler for all

Who we are: Reconciled and Holy

Colossians 1:21-23

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The Sweetest “But”s in Paul’s Writings

Colossians 1:26-27

²⁶the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations,
but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. ²⁷To them God
has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches
of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Romans 3:20-21

²⁰Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. ²¹**But now** apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

Romans 6:20-23

²⁰When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!

²²**But now** that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ²³For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 7:5-6

⁵For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death. ⁶**But now**, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

Ephesians 2:1-5 (ESV)

¹And you were dead in the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience — ³among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.

⁴**But God**, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved...

Ephesians 2:11-13

¹¹Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands) —

¹²remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.

¹³**But now** in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

Ephesians 5:8

For you were once darkness, **but now** you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light.

1 Timothy 1:9-10

⁹He has saved us and called us to a holy life – not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, ¹⁰**but it has now** been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Jesus: The Reconciler for all

Who we are: Reconciled and Holy

Colossians 1:21-23

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The imagery of being “without blemish” comes from the world of sacrifice. Animals offered in sacrifice to God had to be unblemished. George Caird reminds us that “when a man offered an animal in sacrifice, he laid his hand on it in order to identify himself with his offering and to express his aspirations to be himself holy and unblemished.” [*Paul’s Letters from Prison*, 182.] Paul, however, believes that this aspiration has become a reality. Through the sacrifice of Christ, who knew no sin, we blameworthy sinners have become “the righteousness of God” (2 Cor. 5:21). This leads to the law court imagery. When we are presented before the judgment seat of God, no accusation will be raised against us. In Christ we will be irreproachable.

~ David E. Garland, *Colossians and Philemon*, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1998), 97.

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LIFE



Jesus: The Reconciler for all

Reconciliation and Response

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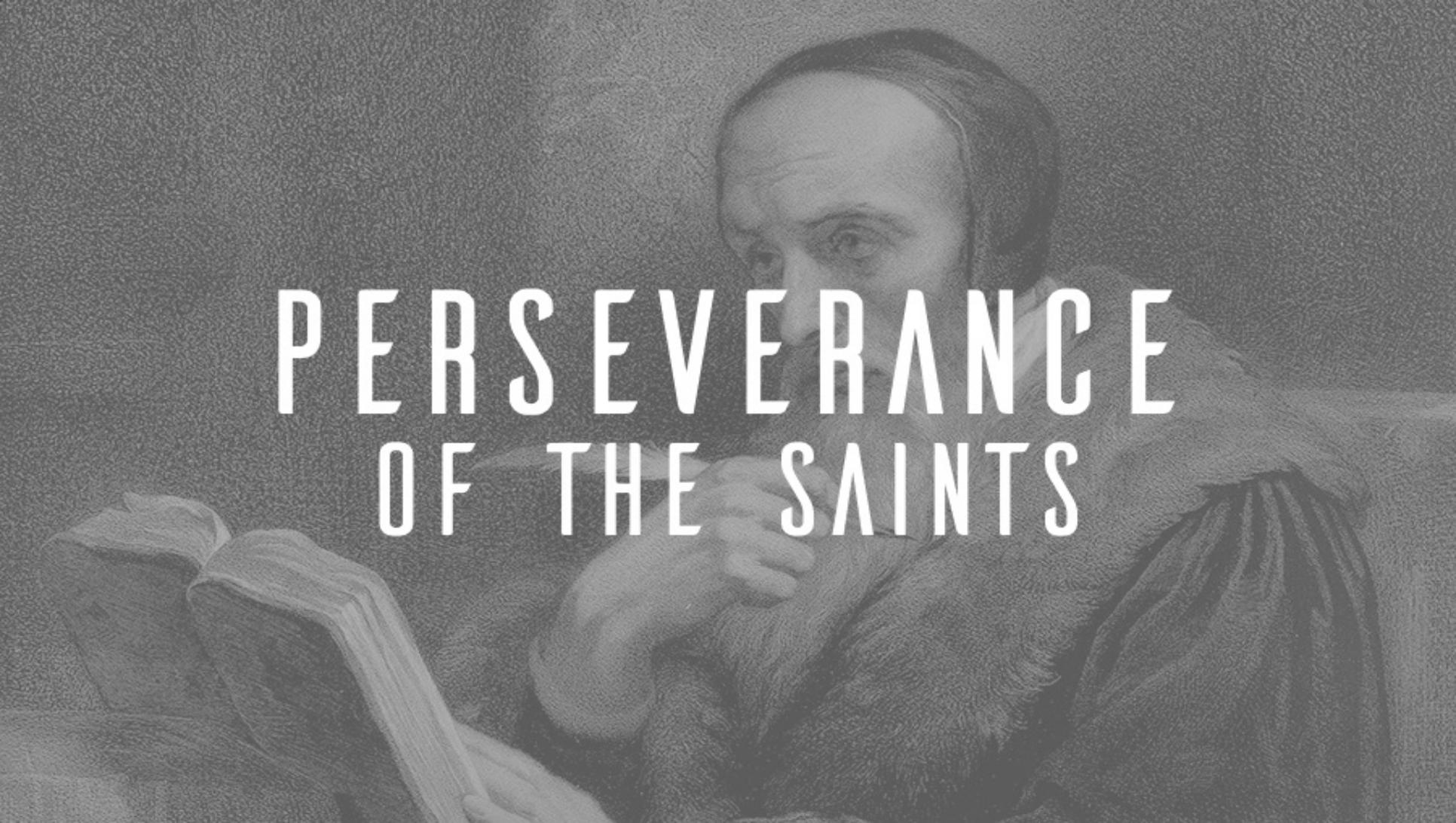
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A grayscale illustration of a man with a beard and a hood, sitting and reading a large open book. The man is looking intently at the pages. The background is a textured, mottled gray. The text "PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS" is overlaid in the center in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

PERSEVERANCE
OF THE SAINTS

Paul is not expressing doubt as to whether they will continue on; that is not what the Greek construction means. The scholar Peter O'Brien paraphrases the idea: "At any rate if you stand firm in the faith – and I am sure you will." [*Colossians and Philemon*, p. 69]. The positive application of Paul's words are 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; present drinking is for present thirst. We must fill our lives every day from him.

~ R. Kent Hughes, *Colossians and Philemon: The Supremacy of Christ, Preaching the Word* (Westchester, IL: Crossway Books, 1989), 40.

Can a
Christian
lose their
salvation?



**DON'T TELL ME I CAN LOSE MY
SALVATION**



**I SAID A LITTLE PRAYER AS A CHILD AND NOW I AM
ETERNALLY SECURE NO MATTER WHAT I DO.**

www.memes.com



Whosoever shall say that men are justified by the mere imputation of Christ's righteousness, or by the mere remission of sins, exclusive of grace and charity which is shed abroad in their hearts by the Holy Spirit, and is inherent in them, or also, that the grace by which we are justified is only the favor of God, let him be anathema.

~ Canon 11 of the sixth session of the Council of Trent

I wish the reader to understand that as often as we mention Faith alone in this question, we are not thinking of a dead faith, which worketh not by love, but holding faith to be the only cause of justification. (Galatians 5:6; Romans 3:22.) It is therefore faith alone which justifies, and yet the faith which justifies is not alone: just as it is the heat alone of the sun which warms the earth, and yet in the sun it is not alone, because it is constantly conjoined with light.



~ John Calvin, in *Antidote to Council of Trent*, 1547

Justification is by faith alone,
but the faith that justifies
is never alone.

Do Christians sin?

There is no question that professing believers can fall and fall radically. We think of men like Peter, for example, who denied Christ. But the fact that he was restored shows that not every professing believer who falls has fallen past the point of no return. At this point, we should distinguish a serious and radical fall from a total and final fall. Reformed theologians have noted that the Bible is full of examples of true believers who fall into gross sin and even protracted periods of impenitence. So, Christians do fall and they fall radically. What could be more serious than Peter's public denial of Jesus Christ?

Is perseverance our work, or God's?

Philippians 1:4-6

⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Is perseverance our work, or God's?

Philippians 2:12-13

¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,

Is perseverance our work, or God's?

Philippians 2:12-13

¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed – not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence – continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

The real question before the Colossians...

And us:

Are you moving?







Gospel Application

Gospel Application

Reconciliation and Response



Because you have made us for Yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in Thee.

~ Augustine, *Confessions*, 1.1.1.