



Christ Over All - Week 3 (August 30)

Read Colossians 1:21-23 and discuss the following.

What is the most memorable *'before and after'* commercial or testimonial that you can recall? Describe the *'before and after'* picture painted in **v.21-22**.

What caused our alienation and estrangement from God? **Verse 21** describes our sinfulness as *"hostile in mind"* and *"evil"* in *"deeds"*. How do our thoughts impact our actions (**see Eph. 4:18**)? Explain.

Paul contrasts past enmity with God by showing the present status of those now in Christ. How have believers in Jesus been *"reconciled"* with God? According to **verse 22**, what is the ultimate purpose of our reconciliation? How is this particularly hopeful for you?

According to **v.23** what is our presentation as *"holy and blameless"* (**v.22**) contingent upon? How do we *"continue in the faith"*? What are some examples given here in our text of Scripture?

Read the following passages: **Philippians 1:6, John 10:27-29, Romans 8:35-39, 1st Peter 1:3-5, Psalm 51:12, and Ephesians 2:8-10**. These and many others speak to the fact that those Jesus saves, He also keeps. So then, how do the above passages help us understand what Paul is saying in **v.23**? Explain.

Read **1st John 2:19**. Failure to *"continue in the faith"* might be evidence of what?

While we trust in the Lord to both save and sanctify, we are responsible to respond to His Word in obedience. List some examples of the practical holiness our new lives in Christ are meant experience. How does Jesus hold us fast and help us persevere in faith? Give some tangible means He uses to bring this to fruition.

How does this passage of Scripture most comfort and/or convict you personally?