

“The Expanse of Reconciliation”

Colossians 1:21-25

Grasping the expanse that Christ has worked for us.

I. Understand how far the Lord has brought us back to God:

A. Our former alienation from God was _____.

Colossians 1:21— *"And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds,*

1. How did you know you were alienated from God?
2. In what way was our minds hostile against God?
3. How did we justify engaging in evil deeds?

B. Our current reconciliation with God is now _____.

²² *yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—*

1. See **Romans 8:1** — *"Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."*
 - a. No need for fear or chronic guilt.

C. Our salvation is evidenced by _____ in the gospel.

²³ *if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister."*

1. **Gospel** = Salvation is by grace alone through faith in Christ alone having repented of one's sins.
2. If we are not clinging to the hope of the Gospel when this life is over, then we were never saved.

II. Paul shares why suffering for the church is producing joy in his life.

Colossians 1:24 — ²⁴ *Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions."*

A. The early church considered it a privilege to suffer for the name of Christ -Acts 5:41

B. Five reasons suggested in the New Testament:

1. Suffering brings believers _____ to Christ – Phil 3:10
2. Suffering assures the believer that _____ to Christ – 1Peter 4:14
3. Suffering brings a future _____ – Rom 8:17-18; 2 Cor 4:17
4. Suffering _____ when God works it for good – Rom 8:28

C. Clarification of – “filling what is lacking in Christ's affliction”

1. This refers to the physical pain the enemy still wished to inflict on Christ which is now being focused on the messengers of the gospel.