

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
November 4, 2020
Until Death Do Us Unite

Colossians 1:20-23 KJVS

And, (Jesus) having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. [21] And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled [22] In the body of His Flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in His sight: [23] If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Let's start at the beginning. Jesus made peace with God for us through His blood because when the earth and its inhabitants fell from Him in Genesis 3, there began a broken relationship between the One and Only and His creation. His Supremacy, detailed in the previous verses of Colossians 1, establishes the fact that we initially belong to Him. Since we died spiritually at our fall, it was demonstrated through the curse of physical death. Only a substitutionary death and the shedding of innocent blood could satisfy the void created in this drama. This peace we read of in verse 20 is the Greek word 'eirēnopoieō' which speaks of Christ as a 'peacemaker' or 'harmonizer'. The Greek goes on to say He purchased full reconciliation between us and our Lord. This is known as 'propitiation'. No further sacrifice was needed or sufficient. "Jesus paid it all. All to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain. He washed us white as snow" Know the song? Notice also He reconciled All things. The title deed of the whole earth has changed hands and is fully within the ownership of the Original Proprietor. That includes us! Praise God! Pastor, in his sermon this week, well stated that the enmity in verse 21 was the result of a unilateral move on the part of man. We moved. He did not. He had to suffer a brutal death to bring about this reestablishment of relationship. Would you die to make full peace in your broken relations? Or that of others? Even your enemies? Nice thought but can you resurrect to rise them all to Eternal Life? We are fortunate in deed to be servants of the Living God. All of this in verse 22 to make us perfect, holy before Him. What a joy! Now comes verse 23 and that Big IF. Can this be saying we are saved only IF we continue? Yes! Do we get unsaved IF we don't continue. No! Does continuation show that we committed to a permanent fellowship which was sealed by the Holy Spirit? Yes! Scripture is filled with the evidence of this paradigm and has been argued often. Your vote of confidence and agreement with God's offer enacted a Seal in the Heavens that He alone holds in His Hands. The resultant love of the Savior grows within us and even though we place bumps in the road we Will continue! The proof is in the pudding, so to speak. Trust Him. Not yourself.

Pastor alluded to something else in his sermon. When we close our eyes in death we open them to Eternal Life. 2 Corinthians 5:6-8. Have you considered this? Do we die? Death has lost its sting. 1 Corinthians 15:55-56. When we are saved from the curse of sin does that include physical death? Think of this. When a loved one dies in the Lord, (Psalm 116:15, Ecclesiastes 7:1) we watch as physical life leaves the body. But what does our loved one experience? Many are incoherent at the end due to the mercy of God but many are alert and ready to go. When the last breath leaves them it is understood that they experience an immediate transition into Jesus' Presence. Do they experience death or a change in state? Life to life! Consider the last words of some of the Saints of the Lord who saw their eternal life appear before them.

- D.L. Moody's deathbed words. He was reported to have turned to his boys who were at his bedside and said, "If God be your partner, make your plans large."
- Martin Luther. "Our God is the God from whom cometh salvation. God is the Lord by whom we escape death."
- "I enjoy heaven already in my soul. My prayers are all converted into praises." -Augustus Toplady, author of the great hymn "Rock of Ages," who died at age 38.
- "I have pain—but I have peace, I have peace." -Richard Baxter, 17th Century Puritan Theologian.
- John Knox uttered these piercing words and then died, "Live in Christ, die in Christ, and the flesh need not fear death."
- Billy Graham notes that when the great saint Joseph Everett was dying, he said, "GLORY! GLORY! GLORY!" and continued exclaiming "GLORY!" for over twenty-five minutes until he was whisked away by angels to the gates of heaven.
- August Strindberg, a Swedish dramatist who died May 14, 1912, left a legacy of forgiveness and redemption by dying with a Bible clasped tightly to his chest, saying, "It is atoned for."
- Stephen died a martyr's death of stoning with these words, Acts 7:59-60 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.