

**Colossians - Chapter 1**  
**“Our Presentation Day at the Judgment Seat”**  
**Colossians 1:22-23**

**Verse 22**

1. If I am alienated from God, and an enemy of God, a way of peace must be made if I am to have any hope. But, here is the problem: I can't help myself! How can a person dead in his sins make a way of peace with a holy God?
2. There has to be a mediator—somebody to go to bat for him and initiate a way of peace. This is what Christ did (1 Timothy 2:5-6). Christ took the initiative.
3. Jesus Christ made it possible for us to be reconciled to God in the body of His flesh through death. He took our humanity on Himself. Jesus said to the Father, “...*a body thou hast prepared me.*” Hebrews 10:5
4. Jesus was still God (you can't change who you are), but He was also fully man. There was no other way for Him to legally and justly be able to pay for our sins other than to take on our human flesh, and then choose to die in our place. Romans 5:6, 8
5. Verse 20 says that Christ made peace through the blood of His cross. His cross work means that we can now be redeemed and fully forgiven (1:14). Christ made the way for reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, 21
6. He accomplished all of this in the body of His flesh through death. Redemption is something **real** that took place in time and history, in Christ's flesh and blood. This is what makes salvation from our sins possible—the cross!
7. God has no other way of dealing with sin other than the cross work of His Son. Enemies of God can only be reconciled to God **one way**—in the body of Christ's flesh through death. There is no “Plan B.” What Christ did was enough. He fully paid sin's price.
8. But God does nothing without a purpose. Notice God's purpose in reconciliation: “...*to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight.*”
9. The word “reconcile” carries the idea of “changing thoroughly from.” God's purpose in reconciliation is to change our wicked works (vs. 21) into good and holy works. Titus 2:14; Ephesians 2:10
10. The end of verse 22 is dealing with the fact that every reconciled believer in the body of Christ will one day be **presented** before Christ at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Notice the last three words, “*in his sight.*”
  - The word “*present*” is the same Greek word used in Romans 14:10, where it says, “...*we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*”
11. This will be where each of us will be held accountable for what we have done with the new life we have received in Christ. Did we invest in building up our inner man and in the things of God? Or, did we invest in the temporal, fleshly things of this earth?
12. Christ's goal in reconciliation is to one day present you as a fully mature believer who lived a holy and acceptable (Romans 12:1) life on earth. The only way for you to stand approved is to study God's Word and allow God to change you. 2 Timothy 2:15

- The same word used in Colossians 1:22 for “*present*” is the same Greek word used in Romans 12:1, “**Present** your bodies...” and also in 2 Timothy 2:15, “Study **to show** thyself approved unto God...” These are choices we make on earth.
13. Not every believer will stand approved at the Judgment Seat of Christ. They will have been saved, but their works on earth will all burn up (1 Corinthians 3:13-15). They will stand reprovved by Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10-11), and will not hear, “*Well done thou good and faithful servant.*”
  14. This idea of a future presentation day before Christ was very important to Paul. He desired for his converts to be brought to full maturity so that they could be presented acceptable before the Judgment Seat of Christ. 1:28; 2 Corinthians 11:2-3; 1 Thessalonians 3:10-13
  15. The issue in Colossians 1:22 is not sin. Sin is dealt with and taken care of by the cross the moment you are saved. The issue at our presentation day will be our faithfulness. 1 Corinthians 4:2
    - Were we faithful to continue in the faith? Were we faithful to study God's Word and grow and mature in Christ? Were we faithful to look for Christ's coming and live in anticipation of it? 2 Timothy 4:8
    - God's Holy Spirit is working **in you** so that you will spiritually mature (be perfected), your spiritual maturity will demonstrate itself in good works, and you will be wellpleasing “*in his sight.*” Hebrews 13:21
  16. This is the context, as we will see in verse 23, and this is why we see the conditional word “if” at the beginning of verse 23. The idea is that every believer will not be faithful, and every believer will not stand before the Judgment Seat as holy, unblameable, and unrepvovable “*in his sight.*” Some will be reprovved and rebuked. They were not faithful.

### Verse 23

1. If we are to stand commended in Christ's sight one day, we must continue (abide, tarry, remain) in the faith (the body of sound doctrine given by Paul to the church). The idea of “continuing” is to be faithful, growing in our faith (grounded and settled) and not moved from the hope of the gospel. The opposite of this would be Ephesians 4:14.
  - Satan was actively trying to move these Colossians away from the truth of God's Word. There was a lot of false teaching going on, trying to move people away. They had heard the gospel and believed it, so Paul told them to stick by the stuff they had learned, and not to be moved away from their completeness in Christ. Stay on the foundation.
2. What is the hope of the gospel? The hope of the gospel is Christ and His return for us. vs. 27; 1 Timothy 1:1; Titus 2:13
3. So many Christians allow Satan and their own fleshly lusts to move them away from their hope. They drift in their fellowship with Christ and scarcely think of Christ's return and the things in heaven above. 3:1-2

4. Therefore, they don't continue in the faith, grounded and settled, but rather they walk by sight and walk according to their fleshly lusts. One day they will stand reprobated at the Judgment Seat of Christ.
5. But, for those who are faithful (not sinless), and keep the faith, and live in anticipation of Christ's coming, they will stand approved and commended at the Judgment Seat of Christ and will receive eternal rewards. 2 Timothy 4:7-8
6. Our reconciliation to God is an accomplished fact, but **how** we will be presented before Christ one day is dependent on our faithfulness here on earth.
7. Paul was made a minister of the gospel that he received by direct revelation of Jesus Christ (Galatians 1:11-12). Paul said that this gospel was preached to every creature that was under heaven.
8. The gospel of the kingdom committed to the twelve had never made it out of Israel (Galatians 2:7-10), but Paul's gospel of grace had gone into all the world, and was preached to every person (Jew or Gentile) without distinction.
9. Paul's gospel had gone all over the planet and was made available to everybody (vs. 6). This was the gospel that had come to the Colossians, and the gospel that they needed to stand in and not allow Satan to move them from.