

Colossians 1:21-23

Redeemed Aliens

Ruined, reconciled ...

- I. Hostile Aliens
 - A. Distant
 - B. Defiant
 - C. Depraved
- II. Reconciled by Death
 - A. Crucifixion
 - B. Justification
- III. Exhorted to Press On
 - A. Stable
 - B. Steadfast

... and resolute.

Children, Listen ...

1. Can someone be close to God if they don't believe in Jesus?
2. Does everyone have a sin problem even if they are not as bad as they could be?
3. What did Jesus do so that we could be forgiven of our sin?
4. Should that make Christians thankful every day and ready and willing to live for God?

Step Back and Draw Near

Paul had just reminded his readers that it was through the blood of Jesus shed on the cross of that they were reconciled to God. In this passage he has us step back and consider what we were before knowing Christ. While no one would argue against the fact that some people act out there depravity more than others, all mankind outside of Christ has the same threefold problem of distance, defiance and depravity. Far from God – in rebellion against God – and doing things that displease God. The terminology Paul uses does seem to address the Gentile condition a little more directly than that of the Jewish people, but in the end, as Paul often stresses elsewhere, Jew and Gentile alike have the same problem by nature. There is only one way to come near to God – be at peace with God – and to genuinely pursue a life of obedience to God. That way is through reconciliation through the willing sacrifice of the Son of God. The status of repentant sinners is radically transformed. This great work of salvation in our lives is cause for daily thanksgiving and a life dedicated to Him inspired by an eternally grateful heart. Step back and see what you were by nature – come to the cross and see your sins atoned for – and draw near to your God who has drawn near to you with His saving and sanctifying grace.