

- Who You Naturally **Are**:
 - And What You Are Naturally **Like**:
 - Apart From Jesus!
- And Sometimes:
 - It Is Good For You To Remember:
 - Your Past - In Order For You To Appreciate Your Present Peace With God Even More!
- And This Was Your Life:
 - Apart From Christ - You Were:
- Estranged From God!
 - This Is What That Word "Alienated" Means!
 - You Were Shut Out From Fellowship With God:
 - Because Of Your Sin & The Sins Of Your Human Family!
 - When Adam & Eve "Hid Themselves From The Presence Of The Lord God" In The Garden Of Eden - It Estranged The Entire Human Race From Its Creator!
 - And So - All Of Us - As Soon As We Are Born:
 - Are Part Of Another Nation & Another Family!
 - A Godless, Devilish, And Idolatrous One!
 - Ephesians 2:12 - "That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world!"
 - You Were Estranged From God!
 - But - This Was Not Just Out Of Mere Ignorance Or Innocence - Because The Text Is Clear:
 - You Were Also An:
- Enemy Of God!
 - 1:21 - "Enemies In Your Mind!"
 - You Did Not Just Try To Hide Yourself From God:
 - You Were Hateful & Hostile Toward God!
 - You Were His Enemy!
 - From The Inside Out:
 - In Your Own Mind:
 - And Through Your Own Works:
 - You Revealed Your True Nature:
 - As One Who Was Living In Darkness, Depravity, And Spiritual Death!
 - All You Have To Do:
 - Is Look At The World In Which You Live:
 - To See What You Were Once Like:
 - In Your Past!
 - This World:
 - Denies Christ & Disobeys Christ:
 - And Even Blasphemes The Name Of Christ! **IE**: Curse Words!
- Now - When You See This & Hear This About Yourself:
 - You Might Shrink Back In Horror & Think:
 - I Could **Never** Have Been Like That!
 - But - In Truth - You Were!
 - If Not In Every Outward Form, It **Was** There In Your Heart!
- All This Describes **You**:
 - Apart From Christ!
 - All This Continues To Describe The World:
 - Apart From Christ!
- Yet - How Much Of This Remains In:
 - And Is Attractive To You?
 - How Much Do You Go Along With The Mind & The Activities Of Those Who Remain:
 - Estranged From & Enemies To The Lord?
- Remember Your Past!
 - And **Keep** It In Your Past!
 - You Were Estranged From God & An Enemy Of God!

- And - Remember It's Price!
- But Then - Also:

3. **Remember Your Purpose!**

- Remember Your Purpose!
 - And What You Have Been Reconciled **To!**
 - Another Kind Of Life Than You Once Lived:
 - And Another Kind Of Destiny Than You Once Had!
 - You See - Jesus Reconciled You - To Do Something Special For You And With You!
 - 1:22b - "To Present You Holy And Unblameable And Unreproveable In His Sight!"
 - Jesus Reconciled You So That He Can One Day "Present You" As:
 - His Own Treasure & A Trophy Of His Grace! **IE:** CEF 5K Medal!
 - You See - One Of The Great Longings:
 - Of A Christian's Heart:
 - Will Be Holiness!
 - Even As We Are Told By The Lord To - "Be Ye Holy, For I Am Holy!" (1 Peter 1:16)
 - Well - One Day - Because You Have Been Reconciled By Jesus Christ:
 - You **Will** Be Holy - Even As He Is Holy!
 - And It Will Be:
- A Fulfilled Holiness!
 - You Will One Day:
 - Be Presented As Holy:
 - Finally! Fully! And Forever!
 - You Will Be "Cleansed From All Sin And Separated Entirely To God And His Service!" (Hendrickson)
 - But Even More - It Will Be:
 - A Flawless Holiness!
 - You Will Be "Unblameable" - Or - "Without Blemish!"
 - This Describes The Extent Of Your Holiness!
 - This Is What The Ancient Jews Had To Search For All Throughout Their Flocks In Order To Find Just The Right Animal To Sacrifice To The Lord!
 - Well - One Day - **All** Of Jesus' Flock Will Be This Way! **You** Will Be This Way! Perfectly Acceptable To God - Because You Have Been Reconciled By Jesus!
 - And Even More - You Will Possess:
 - A Faultless Holiness!
 - You Will Be "Unreproveable!"
 - Which Means That Noone Can Come In:
 - And Accuse You Of Anything!
 - This Is Different Than It Is Now!
 - Because - Even Today:
 - Sometimes - You Will "Yield To Temptation" - And Your Sin Will Give The World A Reason To Accuse You & Bring Reproach To The Lord!
 - Sometimes - The Devil Himself Will Try To Bring Up Your Past Sins & Accuse You In Order To Convince You That You Have No Peace With God!
 - Sometimes - Your Good Might Even Be "Evil Spoken Of!"
 - But - Praise God - That One Day:
 - You Will Stand Before The Lord:
 - Absolutely Flawless & Faultless Before His Throne!
 - Because You Are At Peace With God!
 - Remember That This Is God's Purpose For Your Peace!
 - So - Continue To Seek To Live:
 - In This Way Today!
 - By God's Grace & Through His Peace!
 - "Holy And Unblameable And Unreproveable In His Sight!"
 - But - Paul Also Wants You To:

4. **Remember Your Proof!**

- Remember Your Proof!
 - And That You Have Been Reconciled **If:**
 - 1:23b - "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel!"
 - Paul Includes This Facet Of Reconciliation Because He Knows That There May Be Many Who Claim To Have Peace With God, But In Reality, Are Still Estranged From & Enemies Of The Lord!
 - But - **There Will Be Proof In Your Life If There Is Peace In Your Heart With God!**
 - And The Proof Of Your Peace:
 - According To This Verse - Is Perseverance!
 - You Will "Continue" & Remain:
 - In The Faith!
 - This Verse Is Given:
 - Not To Bring Greater Doubt:
 - But Greater Assurance:
 - Of Your Peace With God! Because There Will Be Clear Evidence Of:
- A Christian Cornerstone:
 - In Your Life!
 - In 1:23 - Paul Describes The Persevering Christian As One Who Has Been:
 - "Grounded" In The Faith!
 - You Have Been Personally Established In The Faith:
 - And Now - Jesus Christ Is The Very Foundation & The Cornerstone Of Your Life!
 - 1 Peter 2:6 - "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded!"
 - One Of The Greatest Proofs:
 - That You Are At Peace With God:
 - Is That You Are Striving To Build Your Life On The Firm Foundation Of Jesus Christ!
 - Seen In Your Desires!
 - Seen In Your Delights!
 - Seen In Your Devotion!
 - Are You Building Your Life:
 - On The Solid Rock Of Christ?
 - Or - On The Shifting Sand Of This World?
 - There Will Also Be Clear Evidence Of:
- A Christian Confidence!
 - Not Only Will You Be "Grounded" In The Faith:
 - You Will Also Be "Settled!"
 - This Means That Your Heart & Soul Will Be At Rest & Fixed:
 - In The Gospel Of Christ!
 - Your Faith:
 - Will Send Its Roots Down Deep:
 - Into The Soil Of God's Grace!
 - And You Will Grow!
 - The "Fruit" Of Your Faith:
 - Will Continue To Flourish:
 - The Fruit Of The Spirit Which Is "Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleless, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance!" (Galatians 5)
 - But There Will Also Be The Evidence Of:
- A Christian Courage!
 - Because You Will Not:
 - "Be Moved Away From The Hope Of The Gospel!"
 - There Will Be A Growing Strength In Your Christian Life!
 - So That - Ephesians 4:14 - You Will - "No more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and

cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive!”

- This Kind Of Strong & Growing Faith:

- Will Be The Proof & The Evidence:

- That You Have Been Reconciled By Christ:

- And That You Have Peace With God!

- And So - As John Tells Us In 1 John 2:28 - “And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming!”

Conclusion:

1. Paul Ends 1:23 With A Reason For Us To:

- “Continue In The Faith” - And That Is:

- Because Of “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!”

- You See:

- The Gospel Is Worth:

- Holding On To & Continuing In:

- Because It Is The Truth!

2. There Is Absolutely Nothing:

- That Can Rival:

- The Gospel Of Reconciliation:

- That You Can Have Peace With God:

- Through Faith Alone In Jesus Christ!

- And There Is:

- No Other Foundation!

- No Other Gospel!

- No Other Name!

- No Other Doctrine!

- That Can Compare To The Faith:

- That Was Once Delivered Unto You:

- By Which Also You Are Saved!

3. There Is Nothing More:

- You Need Than The Gospel!

- There Is Noone Else:

- You Need Than Christ!

- See This More Tonight - Ethiopian Eunuch!

- But - How Encouraging This Must Have Been:

- To That Small Church:

- In That Backwater Town Of Colosse!

- They Weren’t Missing Out On Anything!

- The Lord Had Smiled On Them With The Gospel Of His Grace:

- And They Had All They Needed In Christ!

4. And How True This Is For You:

- As Well - This Morning!

- If You Are A Christian:

- Remember That You Have Been Reconciled With God Through The Person & Work Of Your Savior, Jesus Christ!

- Remember Your Past!

- Remember Your Peace!

- Remember Your Purpose!

- Remember Your Proof!

- And Live In The Peace That You Have Been Given!

- **IE:** All Kinds Of Peace Treaties Between Countries! Some Peace Treaties Just Cause The Hostilities To Cease - But They Are Still Enemies & Perhaps Even Still At War - Think About North & South Korea! Some Peace Treaties Cause One Country To Just Be Neutral With Other Countries - So That In Any Other Altercation, They Won’t Take A Side! Some Peace Treaties Cause Countries To Become Allies - Like NATO - Where We Will Come To The Aid Of The Other In Times Of Conflict!

- The Reconciliation & Peace That Comes Through Jesus Christ Is Different Than All Of These!

- It Does Not Keep You At Arms Length From God! It Does Not Even Call You An Ally!
It Brings You Into The Very Kingdom & Family Of God Himself!

- Live In This Peace:

- That You Have Been Given!

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