

That little word “if” in colossians 1:23

NT:1489

εἴγε

ei ge (or eige) (i'-gheh); from NT:1487 and NT:1065; if indeed, seeing that, unless, (with negative) otherwise:

KJV - if (so be that, yet).

(Biblesoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003, 2006

ge emphasizes whatever other word it is paired up with, in this case *ei* or “if”.

It always has emotion behind it.

“The feelings are sharply involved when *ge* is present.” [Robertson, A Grammar of the Greek New Testament in the Light of Historical Research, Broadman Press, 1934, p.1147]

ge is post-positive which means it comes after the word it modifies.

It suits the Greek, which delights in pointed questions, irony, and equivocal assent.

It serves to emphasize the word it is associated with, and the idea behind it is “at least”.

It is concessive. That just means that what follows is a concession. “the goal is for the Lord to present you holy and blameless and beyond reproach. I have to concede that we may have a problem here..”

“If though”

However there is something I have to bring up regarding this...

Provided that...

The verb that follows *ei ge* in Colossians 1:23 is in the indicative mood. This means the statement is presumed to be true for the sake of the argument or discussion.

IF – and please tell me this is the case! –

If (and let’s presume for the sake of this discussion that it is the case)(Seeing that)you are remaining, as concerns the faith, grounded and settled, and please may it not be going on that you are being taken away from the hope of the gospel

That hope which is

Col 1:5-7

because of the hope **laid up for you in heaven**, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, **the gospel** 6 which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is **constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you** also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth; 7
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In other words, He who began a good work in you at regeneration desires to complete that good work until the day of Christ Jesus,

And that work includes you bearing fruit

Now I am going to say something that should make sense now that we understand the top down method.

You cannot understand Col 1:22-23 until you absorb the issues of chapter 2. And chapter 3.

How does chapter 1 end? What does Paul want for every believer in Colossians?

That Paul, Timothy and Epaphras may present every man complete in Christ.

What tools do they have to get this done?

Admonishing
Teaching

Does Paul talk about hope at the end of chapter 1?

What is the hope based on?

Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Does that sound like believers or unbelievers?

Can that hope be taken away from the believer? No!

So the issue is to fully carry out the word of God with them, proclaim this hope so that they understand it and live according to it, why?

So that they may be COMPLETE in Christ. And be presented as COMPLETE in Christ

The word is teleios and it means complete with regard to labor, growth, mental or moral character.

NT:5046

.36 NT:5046

<START GREEK>te/leio\$

<END GREEK>a,

<START GREEK>a

<END GREEK>,

<START GREEK>on

<END GREEK>: pertaining to being perfect in the sense of not lacking any moral quality - 'perfect.'

<START GREEK>ei&<END GREEK>

(from Greek-English Lexicon Based on Semantic Domain. Copyright © 1988 United Bible Societies, New York. Used by permission.)

It means mature, adult, full grown.

Think about what this word means in connection with FRUIT.

NT:5046

5. *teleios* (

<START GREEK>τέλειος

<END GREEK>, NT:5046), perfect, is translated "men" in 1 Cor 14:20, RV marg., "of full age," KJV marg., "perfect, or, of a ripe age." See PERFECT.

(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words, Copyright © 1985, Thomas Nelson Publishers.)

Sorta appropriate that this definition would come from a man named VINE!

In chapter 2, does Paul say anything concerning the Colossians that sounds like

In other words, He who began a good work in you at regeneration desires to complete that good work until the day of Christ Jesus,

And that work includes you bearing fruit

But if you have been removed away from the hope of the gospel – grace!

And are being put under decrees

Col 2:20-23

decrees, such as, 21 "Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!" 22 (which all refer to things destined to perish with use) — in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? 23

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That fruit is not going to grow!

These things have the appearance of holiness to be sure but are of NO value against fleshly indulgence. In other words, the fruit that will grow is fruit for death – the deeds of the flesh.

That fruit that God wants you to bear is compassion, kindness, love

And it is by living according to love, bearing and caring,

That you find yourself

Holy and blameless and beyond reproach

Gal 5:22-24

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24
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Rom 13:8-10

8 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. 9 For this, "YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY, YOU SHALL NOT MURDER, YOU SHALL NOT STEAL, YOU SHALL NOT COVET," and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.
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How does chapter 3 begin? Where does it put us?

Does that remind you of anything in our lesson Wed night?