

## **My questions on Colossians 1:21-23**

### **TOP DOWN QUESTIONS**

1. What is Colossians about?
2. Why did Paul write Colossians?
3. What people, places and cultural references are found in this letter?
4. What is the historical setting for Colossians? How about the personal setting – Paul & Timothy and Epaphras? How about the Colossians themselves? Who are they? What do we know about the church there?
5. What is the outline of Colossians, chapter by chapter?
  - What is chapter 1 about?
  - What is chapter 2 about?
  - What is chapter 3 about?
  - What is chapter 4 about?
6. Where does the passion of Colossians get raised? What chapter is about the conflict going on?
7. What is the first indication in the letter that there is a problem occurring in the church at Colossae?
8. What is the problem?
9. Where else does the problem show up in the letter?
10. How does Paul combat the problem in this letter to the Colossians?
11. How does Colossians 1:21-23 relate to this problem that has infiltrated the church at Colossae (and probably by implication, Laodicea)?
12. What are several possible interpretations of Colossians 1:21-23?
13. What is at stake here in the interpretation of this verse? What are the most vital issues to settle?
14. What book is the closest companion to Colossians? Does it talk about any of the things that are mentioned in our passage? Things like being rooted and grounded? Like being holy and blameless? What does the context there add to our understanding here?
15. What foundation truth that we are given elsewhere in the New Testament cannot be violated by whatever interpretation we come up with?

16. We are currently studying Romans 7. Does Romans 7 shed any light on Colossians 1:21-23?
17. What is the “so that” of Romans 7:4? What is the “so that” of Colossians 1:22?
18. According to Romans 7, what can never make us holy? What is the only thing that can?
19. Consider the following statement: The book of Colossians rests on top of Romans 7:4 in the book of Romans, and connects to Romans 7:4, and in fact is an extension of Romans 7:4 that expands on Romans 7:4 , working out the implications of Romans 7:4 in the face of an attack of false teaching that has hit the congregation at Colossae, an attack that moves along the same lines as that which Paul refutes in Romans 7.
20. How would we work that out to see if this is true or not?

### **BOTTOM UP QUESTIONS**

1. What is the Greek for “if” in verse 23? How is it used in the Greek language, and in the New Testament, and what does that tell us about what it means here?
2. What are the verbs in verses 22 & 23? What are their tenses, voices, and moods? What do we learn from this?
3. What are the Greek words for “holy”, “blameless”, “beyond reproach”? What do they mean, and where else in the New Testament do they show up? What can we learn about the meaning here from the context in these other passages?
4. Same questions for “firmly established” and “steadfast”.
5. Is “present you before Him” a synonym for salvation? For eternal life? For making it to heaven?
6. What is the Greek verb for “present” in Col 1:22? What does it mean, and where else in the NT is it used? What subject(s) are talked about when this verb is used in the epistles?
7. Where else do “hope” and “the gospel” occur together in the New Testament?
8. What does the Greek for “moved away” teach us about the meaning of this passage?

WHAT APPROACH – TOP DOWN or BOTTOM UP – is likely to reveal more about this passage? Why?