

Accurately Handling the Word of Truth

Worksheet for Week 6

We are going to use what we have learned so far to determine the best interpretation of the passage in **Colossians 1:21-23** – **especially that little word “if” in verse 23...**

Col 1:21-23

21 And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, 22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach — 23 if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

NASU

Last week we identified the “problem” passage, listed some other passages in the New Testament that raise that same issue, and wrote paragraphs about the book of Colossians in view of the New Testament as a whole.

We ended by answering this question:

1. Read all of chapter 1 and write down your observations as you read.

Here are some of the highlights of what we found in chapter 1:

Gratitude for how awesome Christ is.

There is a mixture of teaching and exhortation.

It is God's strength that enables us to attain all steadfastness. There is a progression from the fact of the gospel, to the knowledge & understanding of the gospel, to living in the hope of the gospel.

The "so that" of verse 10 is that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, pleasing Him, bearing fruit, and increasing in the knowledge of God.

And then we noticed that Colossians 1:21, 22, 23 follow this same pattern. Christ has already reconciled us in His fleshly body through death, with the "so that" of presenting us before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach.

The believers are already qualified to share in the inheritance of the saints.

We have already been translated to the kingdom of God's beloved Son.

We already have redemption – our sins are forgiven.

There is no mention of the possibility of losing one's salvation.

The issue is for the word to be fully carried out with the Colossians so that every one of them would be presented complete in Christ.

As we left, we took on as a homework assignment the following two questions, questions 2 and 3 here. This is where we pick things up tonight.

2. Now skim the entire book, looking for things we talked about - things like proper names, repeated words or phrases, and what is said with particular emphasis. Take notes on what you observe.

3. What are things you want to know but don't yet have the answer to? Write down as many questions as you can think of.



4. Review the questions you came up with. Using the letters A, B, C, D, and E, mark the five most important ones. Rewrite the question next to the corresponding letter below. Then use the table to write a brief plan of attack for getting the answer to that question - based on what you have learned already about the resources we use for top-down and bottom-up study.

Question A:

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Use this resource:	To find out this:

Question B:

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Use this resource:	To find out this:

Question C:

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Use this resource:	To find out this:

Question D:

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Use this resource:	To find out this:

Question E:

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Use this resource:	To find out this:

5. Next, we are going to give a full review of 5 possible interpretations of this passage , based on what we find in sound English translations, solid commentaries, but mostly our own wrestling with the passage.

We'll start on this next week.

Tools:

Our passage in several translations = NASB, KJV, Young's Literal Translation, NET

Good Commentaries on Colossians =