

Colossians 1:21-23 One Thing Leads to Another

I: Outline of the passage

A) Identity: Col 1:21-22a

Now you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death,...

Identity of the person you were in the past versus the Identity of the person you are now.

B) Work: Col 1:22b-23a

In order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard,...

Work Christ completed leads to Work you are now doing and must continue to do.

C) Testimony: Col 1:23b-23c

Which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul became a servant.

Testimony of the gospel to all humankind by those chosen to be servants of the Lord.

II: Purpose of the passage

A) To compare what believers were outside of Christ to what we are now in Christ.

B) To show Christ's work in death and resurrection as the firm foundation for the "work" that we are doing and must continue to do.

C) To show the global reach of the gospel and Paul's place in that as a servant.

III: Application of the passage

One thing leads to another: Who you are determines what you do. What you do determines the testimony about you.

A) What is your Identity? What impact does your Identity have on how you understand and live your life?

B) If your Identity is united to Christ in His death and resurrection, what specific Work do you have to do now? Are you accomplishing that Work?

C) How far does the Testimony of the Identity and Work of Jesus Christ extend?

D) What is Paul's place in the spread of the gospel? What is your place in that spread?