

YOU ARE
COMPLETE
in
HIM.
COLOSSIANS 2:10 NKJV

A new creation focus through Colossians ...

Reconciled

"The mind set on the flesh," asserted the apostle Paul, "is hostile toward God" (Romans 8:7). Hence it is, individual by individual, that the whole world — because people are much more interested in things of the flesh — ends up as an enemy of God, and engaged in open or passive rebellion. The size and scope of this enmity is not to be minimized. Jesus would have been perfectly justified, at any point, to carry out His desire, as He indicated during the days of His earthly sojourn: "I have come to cast fire on the earth; and how I wish it were already kindled" (Luke 12:49). But the loving

God held His anger in abeyance, and instead offered Jesus Christ as a substitute for the sin of man. "It was the Father's good pleasure," the apostle had noted, "to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross" (Colossians 1:19,20).

- **Alienated** — The holy God can have no fellowship with sin. Jesus, in His exalted state as the revelation of the glory of God and High Priest of the order of Melchizedek, is described in these terms: "For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest — holy, innocent, undefiled, *separated from sinners*, and exalted above the heavens" (Hebrews 7:26). Thus it is that any member of the human race, growing up and committing his first sin, becomes separated from God, or alienated from His fellowship. "And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind," affirms Paul, "engaged in evil deeds ..." (Colossians 1:21). That is one of the clear and concise scriptural descriptions of those outside of Christ.
- **In His *fleshy body*** — The word of God affirms in different sayings that Jesus paid the full price for the sins of mankind "in His body"; He did not have to spend another three days following His crucifixion suffering in hell. "He Himself bore our sins *in His body* on the cross [tree]", said Peter (1 Peter 2:24). "By this will," superadded the writer of Hebrews, "we have been sanctified *through the offering of the body* of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:10). The apostle Paul concurs, noting that although we were all alienated from God, "yet He has now reconciled you *in His fleshy body* through death" (Colossians 1:22). Christ's physical body was clearly the sufficient sacrifice for the sins of mankind, and *through* His death, the reconciliation of mankind to God is possible. That the Almighty would even consider reconciling with those who were "alienated and hostile in mind," much less put up the price of Jesus' sacrifice to make it happen, is totally mind-boggling.
- **The presentation** — The love of God for the soul of man is amazing and abounding. Not only does He take the step of reconciling people to Himself through the cross and through the power of Jesus' resurrection, but He does so "in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach." The Father's ability and desire to take the rats' nests messes of twisted and tangled people's lives, to forgive those souls who are willing to repent and be immersed into Christ, and then to present them holy who were not holy, blameless who were not blameless, and beyond reproach who were very reproachful, is beyond human comprehension!

This reconciliation between God and man — a reconciliation that God is willing to pay for — is the ultimate in marvelous. For a person to have once been a sinner and separated from Christ, but now to be a saint and ushered into the very presence of the great and awesome God of the Bible, is of sufficient import that the Christian should willingly fall on his face before the Father. Thus there is a warning condition: "if you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel" (Colossians 1:23). Pity the saint who would fail to recognize the greatness of his salvation, and be swept by the rip tide of the world back into a state of alienation.

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JAY WILSON