

CONDITION IN CHRIST (1:21–22)

²¹And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, ²²yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—

Before (v. 21)

- Alienated (*apallotrioo*)
 - estranged, cut off, separated
- Hostile in Mind (*echthros*)
 - hateful
- Engaged in Evil Deeds (*poneros*)
 - bad, wicked, sick, diseased

After (v.22)

- Holy (*hagios*)
 - set apart as a cherished possession
- Blameless (*amomos*)
 - without blemish, faultless
- Beyond Reproach (*anegkletos*)
 - cannot be called into account; unaccused

CONTINUE IN CHRIST (1:23, 2:4–5)

Colossians 1:23, 2:4–5

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.

⁴ I say this so that no one will delude you with persuasive argument. ⁵ For even though I am absent in body, nevertheless I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good discipline and the stability of your faith in Christ.

John 8:31-32

³¹ So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

1 John 2:19

They went out from us, but they were not *really* of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but *they went out*, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us.

2 Timothy 2:19

Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal, “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness.”

Next week we will discover Principles of Christianity (Christian Living)

Before our next meeting:

- Recall the time when you truly trusted in Christ. Write your short salvation story and share with your dgroup within the week.
- Make a timeline of your Christian life. How have you been progressing in your Christian maturity?
- Read Colossians 2:6-23

PAUL'S CONCERN (1:21-2:5)

Paul wanted the Colossians to understand their present **CONDITION IN CHRIST** and that they should **CONTINUE IN CHRIST**. Paul wanted them to know that his **COMMISSION FROM CHRIST** is to help them become **COMPLETE IN CHRIST**.

What are your concerns?

1. Are anxious, unsure or insecure about your relationship with God? How can knowing your present **CONDITION IN CHRIST** bring you assurance, confidence and security?
2. What does it mean to **CONTINUE IN CHRIST**? Describe a person who has genuine faith in Christ.
3. Do you share Paul's **COMMISSION FROM CHRIST**? How can your current "Christian activities" exude satisfaction, endure suffering, embody servanthood, embrace stewardship, exercise striving and experience sustenance from God?
4. How can you progress towards being **COMPLETE IN CHRIST**?
- 5.

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COMMISSION FROM CHRIST (1:24-25, 29-2:1)

Colossians 1:24-25, 29-2:1

²⁴Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions. ²⁵Of *this church* I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the *preaching* of the word of God,

²⁹For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me. 2:1 For I want you to know how great a struggle I have on your behalf and for those who are at Laodicea, and for all those who have not personally seen my face,

COMMISSION FROM CHRIST

Paul's commission from Christ involves:

- Satisfaction (rejoicing)
- Suffering (not to supplement but to share in)
- Servanthood (minister, for your sake & benefit)
- Stewardship (to fully carry out the Word of God)
- Striving (labor, striving, struggle)
- Sustenance (His power, which mightily works within me)

COMPLETE IN CHRIST (1:26-28, 2:2-3)

Colossians 1:26-28

²⁶*that is*, the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints, ²⁷to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

Colossians 2:2-3

²that their hearts may be encouraged, having been knit together in love, and *attaining* to all the wealth that comes from the full assurance of understanding, *resulting* in a true knowledge of God's mystery, *that is*, Christ *Himself*, ³in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

COMPLETE IN CHRIST

Jesus Christ is:

- The Mystery Revealed (1:26-27, 2:2)
- The Meaning of Life (1:27)
- The Message Proclaimed (1:28)
- The Measure of Maturity (1:28, 2:2-3)