

Colossians Chapter 1 : 21 - 28

²¹ *Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.*

“alienated”- estranged or separated from God

“enemies in your minds” – not in God’s mind, God is love

“evil behavior” evil in thought and actions.

²² *But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—*

“reconciled” - re-united in fellowship with God

Reconciled to God by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross.

Now holy, and perfect – all sins have been forgiven

“free from accusation” there is no more case against us, we have been justified and made righteous by the death of Christ.

²³ *if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.*

Our responsibility is to continue in faith, to be established in faith and be firm in faith – and have no doubt.

The Gospel – Good News – News about the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel must be proclaimed to each person on earth

²⁴ *Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.*

Paul, the writer of Colossians was in prison and suffering because of preaching the Gospel. Yet he was rejoicing because people had believed in the Lord Jesus and the church was established

²⁵ *I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness—*

Paul commissioned by God to present to the people the Complete Word of God

²⁶ *the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.*

Something called a mystery or secret had been hidden for thousands of years but was now proclaimed or revealed to the believers.

²⁷ *To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.*

God has decided to make known to the non-Jews this secret.

Which is called a glorious rich mystery.

The mystery is CHRIST IN YOU. Christ living and functioning in and through the believer.

²⁸ *We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.*

The purpose to proclaim, admonish and teach about Christ is so that those who believe in Jesus Christ can be presented to God as holy and perfect. Sin separated us from God and made us evil before God. Jesus Christ died on the cross, and shed His blood and God's Word teaches that the blood of Jesus God's Son purified us from all sin. (1 John 1:7).

²⁹ *To this end I labor, struggling with all His energy, which so powerfully works in me.*

The apostle Paul was highly committed to share the Gospel. He was laboring, struggling but it was His (Christ's) energy giving him power and strength. You and I may experience the same power and strength because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. He never ever changes.