

Sermon Handout

The Sufferings of Christ

Colossians 1:21-25

I. Jesus' Sacrifice and our Sins

- a. Where we were v. 21a
 - i. Alienated – estranged (separated) **from** God
 - ii. Hostile towards God in our minds (our intents)
 - iii. Brought about by our evil behavior
- b. Where we are now v. 22b (*cf.* v. 21b “now”)
 - i. Holy – separated **to** God
 - ii. Without blemish (our evil behavior has been erased) Ps 103:12; I Jn 1:9
 - iii. Unreproveable – no legitimate charge can be brought Rom 8:33-34
 - iv. Before (in front of) himself *cf.* Eph 1:4
We are found to be acceptable as a sacrifice without blemish *in Jesus*
- c. The process by which this took place
 - i. He (Christ) reconciled us to God v. 21b *cf.* v. 14; Eph 1:7
 - ii. In the body of his flesh through death v. 22a
 - iii. Presented us to God – this is sacrificial language *cf.* Lev 16:7; Rom 12:1
The Father looks on the sacrifice and deems it accepted *cf.* Eph 1:6

II. The Sacrifice of Jesus v. 22a

- a. In the body of his flesh
Jesus is truly man, not the mere appearance of man Jn 1:14
Yet he remains fully God Col 2:9; I Tim 3:16
- b. Through (his) death *see* Heb 2:9; Rom 5:6; I Cor 15:3
- c. Our reconciliation is accomplished by this means v. 21b
“Now” – a present reality in the new order of things. Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6-7

III. The Basis of Assurance v. 23-25

- a. Conditional – “If you continue . . .” v. 23 (perhaps “abide by”)
 - i. In the faith (perhaps “your faith” *see* Phil 1:24) but *cf.* Jude 1:3
 - ii. Grounded and settled on a foundation *cf.* Eph 3:17
 - iii. Not shifting back and forth from your hope (trust in Jesus)
- b. Continuance in faithfulness to Christ is our assurance II Cor 5:15; Rom 6:1-5
See also Gal 4:4-9; Rom 8:10-14