

# ***Genuine Salvation***

*Colossians 1:21-23*

Text: Colossians 1:21-23

Introduction: Paul is confronting some of the wrong theological thinking of these Colossian believers. Some of them are turning a system of belief that is a combination of several different false doctrines. This false system includes angel worship, strict asceticism, a denial of both the humanity and deity of Christ with a bit of Jewish legalism (keeping the law for salvation) all thrown together. Paul is attempting to present the truth of Christ. Up to this point in our study, it seems that Paul is writing under the assumption that the people reading the letter are believers. In our text today it is as if he stops to clarify whether or not his readers are genuine believers. He has done this kind of thing before. In the two letters to the Christians at Corinth he rebuked the church on the basis that genuine believers don't do some of the things that they were doing. At the end of the second letter he says this:

- I. What I am Without Christ – v. 21
  - A. A Stranger – alien
  - B. A Subversive – enemy
  - C. A Sinner
- II. What I am in Christ – v. 22
  - A. Set Apart – holy
  - B. Spotless – unblameable
  - C. Set Free – unreprouable.
- III. What I do for Christ – v.23
  - A. I am Secure – grounded
    - 1. Religion
    - 2. Relationships
    - 3. Righteousness
    - 4. Reactions
  - B. I am Steadfast – settled
  - C. I am Staunch – not moved away

Conclusion: As we conclude, I want to point out one more thing that this passage teaches us. It helps to clear up a question that some people have about salvation and sanctification. Some people say that since salvation is all the work of God then the sanctification is also completely left to God. I have nothing to do with how I am being transformed into the image of Christ. This passage shows that not to be the case. My salvation is the work of God, but sanctification is a divine partnership. God will do His part and I should do mine.

Beginning in verse 21 we see what genuine salvation looks like. Salvation is a divine metamorphosis. Salvation makes a stranger a child of God; an enemy a close friend; and a sinner an innocent saint. Salvation begins the process of my transformation into the image of Christ which we call sanctification. What I am without Christ, a stranger, a subversive, and a sinner. What I am in Christ; set apart to God and from sin, spotless like the OT sacrifices, and set free from any accusation that the devil wants to bring against me. What I do for Christ; I am secure in my salvation, I am settled about my beliefs, and I am staunchly refusing to shift away from the truth.