

## Colossians 1:15-23: The Great Contract

Jesus is supreme and sufficient! We were once separated from God and were wandering without hope. Only the perfect sacrifice of Jesus could bridge the infinite gap between our sin and God's glory. It is through our faith in Him that we receive this sacrifice; and by abiding in Him, we can enjoy His fellowship and hope for the future.

- I. Contracts
  - a. We enter into a lot of contracts, online, social, financial
  - b. A special contract that God created for us is the Great Contract (What is the Great Contract?)
    - i. We were separated from God by our sin (Rom 3:23, 6:23)
    - ii. Sin means to "miss the mark"
    - iii. God's Terms and Conditions: A perfect sacrifice needed to cover our sin (Heb 10:14, 1 John 2:2)
    - iv. Our requirements: Accept the free gift of the Sacrifice (Eph 2:8-9, Rom 3:24)
  
- II. The 7 Superiorities of Christ (vs 15-18): Jesus meets the Terms required under the Great Contract
  - a. Christ the Revealer: *image of the invisible God* (v 15a)
    - i. No man can see God (Ex 30:20-23)
    - ii. Jesus has shown us the face of God (1 Tim 3:16)
  - b. Christ the Firstborn: *firstborn of creation* (v 15b)
    - i. Firstborn does not mean that Jesus is not eternal (John 1:1)
    - ii. Firstborn means first of place, preeminence (Psalm 89:27)
  - c. Christ the Creator: *by him all things were created* (v 16)
    - i. The Son made the universe (Heb 1:2)
    - ii. Christ is in control of rulers & authorities
  - d. Christ the Eternal: *before all things* (v 17a)
    - i. Jesus did not begin in Bethlehem
    - ii. Before the beginning, He was (John 1:1; Mic. 5:2; Is 9:6; Jn 1:1-3; 8:58; Ep 1:4; Rev 1:11)
  - e. Christ the Sustainer: *in him all things hold together* (v 17b)
    - i. God isn't the Deist God
    - ii. Our personal Savior is the Glue that holds the universe together
  - f. Christ the High Priest: *he is the head of the body* (v 18a)
    - i. Our Great Shepherd (Heb 13:20)
    - ii. Our High Priest (Eph 1:22, Heb 4:14-16, Col 1:24)
  - g. Christ the Risen: *the firstborn from among the dead* (v 18b)
    - i. Christ is risen indeed (1 Cor 15:20)
    - ii. He is the first, not the last (1 Cor 15:20)
    - iii. He has triumphed over death (Heb 2:14, 1 Jn 3:8)
  
- III. The Great Contract: Reconciliation and Sanctification (vs 19-23)
  - a. Because Jesus Sacrifice is worthy and effectual, we can now be reconciled to the Father
  - b. vs 19: Jesus is God (1 Tim 3:16)
  - c. vs 20: reconciliation with God and the individual
  - d. vs 20: True peace is enables us to reconcile with each other
  - e. vs 21: We were enemies of God (Eph 2:2)
    - i. Two types of people: God's Children and the Children of the world
    - ii. We shouldn't fear or hate those who don't know the Lord, because he loved us (2 Cor 4:4, 1 Jn 4:19)

- f. vs. 22: Why did Jesus fulfill the Great Contract?
  - i. Because he loves us (Jn 3:16)
  - ii. In order to present us holy in his sight (vs 22):
    - 1. We know that we can do nothing to earn reconciliation (Eph. 1:13–14, Eph 2:8–9, Eph 4:30, Titus 3:5, John 3:16, 5:24; 6:47, Rom. 8:29–39, II Cor 5:2–11, Pet 2:24, Isa 53:11)
    - 2. Rather he gave himself for us (reconciled us) for the purpose of presentation
      - a. Set us apart (Tit 2:14, 1 Pet 2:9)
      - b. To follow after him Eph 2:8–10 in our walk
        - i. Eph 5:1. We alone can walk in love
        - ii. Eph 5:2 to walk in love
        - iii. Eph 5:8, walk as children of the light
        - iv. (Eph 5:15) walk wisely
- g. The big “If” (vs 23)
  - i. What does if you continue in the Faith mean
  - ii. Interpretation 1: Falling from Grace (I don’t believe this- John 3:16; 5:24; 6:47, Rom. 8:29–39; Eph. 1:13–14; 4:30)
  - iii. Interpretation 2: a vindication/affirmation of those who have been saved
  - iv. Interpretation 3: references the presentation (We will be presented holy in his sight if we continue in the faith)
    - 1. Presentation Holy = Sanctified (Col 1:28, 2 Cor 11:2, Eph 5:27, 1 Thess 5:23)
    - 2. Not a loss of salvation but a loss of hope (assurance in the NLT)
    - 3. Examples of this in the past Robin Robertson

*O to grace how great a debtor, Daily I’m constrained to be! Let Thy goodness, like a fetter,  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love; Here’s my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for Thy courts above.*

- IV. Conclusion:
  - a. The ink is dry on the Great Contract (Eph 4:3)
  - b. Your inheritance is waiting for you (Eph 1:13–14)
  - c. For those who don’t know the Lord: Jesus Paid it All
  - d. Thanks be to God for his unspeakable Gift

