

# The Iron Men of Fellowship of Champions

Colossians 1:20-22

Lesson 9

Noel R. Vincent

27-May-2023

## Opening Prayer

## Colossians 1:20 (NOTES)

- From vs. 19: “For it was the good pleasure of all the fullness [of the godhead] to dwell in Him [Christ]” and it was the good pleasure of all the fullness of the godhead "through Him [Christ] to reconcile all things to Himself [not Himself, but "Itself / Themselves"]" (vs. 20) - The point here is that each of the three persons of the godhead (Father, Son, and Spirit) take good pleasure in reconciling all things to itself / themselves (Gr. - autos (ow-tos') is gender neutral = itself, themselves, himself, or herself).
- “to reconcile all things” - All things, not just man. Man and the creation are in a fallen state and in need of reconciliation to the godhead. The entropy laws demonstrate this need of reconciliation.
  - Gen 3:17-19 “Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you. With hard labor you shall eat from it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; Yet you shall eat the plants of the field”;
  - Ps 102:25 In time of old You founded the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. Ps 102:26 Even they will perish, but You endure; All of them will wear out like a garment; Like clothing You will change them, and they will pass away. Ps 102:27 But You are the same, And Your years will not come to an end.
  - Ro 8:19 “For the eagerly awaiting creation waits for the revealing of the sons and daughters of God. Ro 8:20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope Ro 8:21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption [entropy - 2nd law of thermodynamics: order to chaos] into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. Ro 8:22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. Ro 8:23 And not only that, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons and daughters, the redemption of our body.”
- “through Him” - That is Christ’s voluntary death on the cross, which was an act of trust and obedience.

- Jn 10:18 ‘No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father’.
- Ph 2:8 “And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross.”
- “to reconcile all things to Himself” - That is to say that God will bring all things to a final resolution and disposition according to His will when He subjects all things to Christ at His Second Coming, both man and the creation.

**Discussion:** What similarities do you see in the way we as humans and the physical universe will be reconciled to God through Christ? He makes ALL THINGS new. At His coming, Christ will:

- a. He will claim all that have faith in Him (the adoption as sons that we eagerly await #Rom 8:23).
- b. He will separate us and bring judgment upon those who do not have faith in Him (casting them “away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power” #2Th 1:9).
- c. He will regain the dominion of the world (which had fallen into the hands of Satan - the god of this world #2Co 4:4).
- d. He will establish His kingdom and eventually bring about a new heaven and a new earth (like He brings about a new heart in regeneration).

In these ways, all things will be reconciled to God through His Son. All things are “subjected” to Christ - #Re 20:1-21:8, 1Co 15:27, Ep 1:22, He 2:8.

- This should not be interpreted to contradict the clear teaching of Scripture. This does not mean that ultimately all people will be saved from their sins and spend eternity with God. Scripture is clear:
  - Ez 18:4 “The soul that sins, it shall die.”
  - Ro 3:23 “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”
  - Ro 6:23 “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”
  - Ep 2:8 “For by grace have you been saved through faith ... ”
  - Tt 3:5 “He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we did in righteousness, but in accordance with His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit”
- “things on earth or things in heaven” - Man is a new creation in Christ; so, also will there be a new heaven and a new earth at the restoration of all things; in the fullness of time; at the summing up of all things in Christ.

- 2Co 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, [he is] a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come [new nature/creature; new heaven/earth]. 2Co 5:18 Now all [these] things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation,
- Ac 3:19 "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; Ac 3:20 and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, Ac 3:21 whom heaven must receive until [the] period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.
- Eph 1:9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him Eph 1:10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, [that is,] the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.
- Is 65:17 "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind.
- 2Pe 3:13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.
- Re 21:1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer [any] sea.

### **Colossians 1:21 (NOTES)**

- "formerly alienated and hostile in mind" - That is the enemies of God. All people hate God and are His enemy until they come to Christ. No one is indifferent to God. The so-called "atheist" hates God through his denial of Him. The so-called "agnostic" hates God through his unwillingness to acknowledge Him. There is love of God and there is hate of Him. There is no middle ground, no fence-post, no indecision when it comes to God. Indecision is rejection, and rejection is hate.
  - Lu 11:23 "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me, scatters.
  - Ro 5:10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.
  - Eph 2:1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, Eph 2:2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.
  - Joh 15:18 "If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you. Joh 15:19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but

because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.

- Re 3:14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God, says this: Re 3:15 'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. Re 3:16 'So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.
- Ro 1:28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, Ro 1:29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, Ro 1:30 slanderers, **haters of God**, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, Ro 1:31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; Ro 1:32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

### Discussion:

- How do you think the unsaved people see themselves in relation to God? As haters? As depraved of mind, filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, and unmerciful. How do they not see it? Pride, wealth, self-reliance, and spiritual blindness.
  - Re 3:17 'Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, Re 3:18 I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.
  - 2Co 4:3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 2Co 4:4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.
- How do we get to these folks? Faith comes by hearing the Word of Christ. Rom 10:17
- "alienated" - (Gr. - apellotriomenous) = "transferred to another owner". To whom were they transferred? Discuss. Satan, their father, the god of this world, the possessor of their souls. Estranged from their creator, God.

- Jn 8:42 Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. Joh 8:43"Why do you not understand what I am saying? [It is] because you cannot hear My word. Joh 8:44 "You are of [your] father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own [nature,] for he is a liar and the father of lies. Joh 8:45"But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me.
- 2Ti 2:24 The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 2Ti 2:25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 2Ti 2:26 and they may come to their senses [and escape] from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.
- "hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds" - Because of their hostility toward God they committed deeds of wickedness. Their evil behavior was the expression of their hostility toward God, which arose from their sin nature and their rebellious hearts. If you have not been reconciled to God through faith in Christ, been changed by His power and indwelt by His Spirit, then your present condition is "alienated and hostile" toward God.
  - 1Co 6:9 Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor homosexuals, 1Co 6:10 nor thieves, nor [the] covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers, will inherit the kingdom of God. 1Co 6:11 Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.

### Colossians 1:22 (NOTES)

- "He has now reconciled you ... in order to present you" - Positionally, we are reconciled to God now, but practically, our ultimate redemption will be a future event that will occur at the Second coming of Christ.
  - Eph 2:8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, [it is] the gift of God;
  - Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, Eph 5:26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, Eph 5:27 that He might present to

Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.

- Ro 8:23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for [our] adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.
- Lu 21:28 "But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."
- "reconciled you in His fleshly body through death" - The Gnostics held that reconciliation to God was effected through intermediaries, super-beings called aeons, and that Christ had little or nothing to do with salvation. Paul emphasizes that it was through Christ and Him alone that salvation was wrought.
- "to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach" Positionally, we are covered in the shed blood of Christ and, in God's sight, are justified (our sins are not held against us) and holy (set apart for His purposes). Practically, we are still in our sinful bodies of flesh and we continue to sin even though those sins are covered. Thus, our ultimate state of sinless glory will be at Christ's coming when we are changed.
  - Ro 7:14 For we know that the Law is spiritual, but I am fleshly, sold into bondage to sin. Ro 7:15 For I do not understand what I am doing; for I am not practicing what I want [to do,] but I do the very thing I hate. Ro 7:16 However, if I do the very thing I do not want [to do,] I agree with the Law, that [the Law is] good. Ro 7:17 But now, no longer am I [the one] doing it, but sin that dwells in me. Ro 7:18 For I know that good does not dwell in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good [is] not. Ro 7:19 For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. Ro 7:20 But if I do the very thing I do not want, I am no longer [the one] doing it, but sin that dwells in me. Ro 7:21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. Ro 7:22 For I joyfully agree with the law of God in the inner person, Ro 7:23 but I see a different law in the parts of my body waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin, [the law] which is in my body's parts. Ro 7:24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? Ro 7:25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.
  - 1Co 15:51 Behold, I am telling you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, 1Co 15:52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.
- "He has now reconciled you ... in order to present you before Him(self) holy and blameless and beyond reproach" - We do not, we cannot make ourselves acceptable

to Him - this is “modern religion” as opposed to the true Christian faith, which looks to God instead of self. God through Christ is the one who does the work of making us acceptable to Himself.

- 1Co 1:8 who will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2Pe 3:14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.
- Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, Jude 1:25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, [be] glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

**Discussion:** How should we see ourselves as the reconciled the Bride of Christ? Virgins. In this reconciliation, Christ is preparing His bride as a restored spiritual virgin. By washing us and making us clean He is making us acceptable, pure, spotless, blameless, virgins. He forgets our sin and loves us as though we’d never sinned.

- 2Co 11:2 “For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.”
- Ep 5:25-32 “25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, 26 so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. 28 So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; 29 for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, 30 because we are members of His body. 31 FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND SHALL BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH. 32 This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church.”

How should the realization that we are virgins in His sight govern our behavior?

- Then, at the Great White Throne Judgement, we will be set apart from those that will be judged.
  - Mt 25:31 "But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Mt 25:32" All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; Mt 25:33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. Mt 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the

kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Mt 25:41"Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; Mt 25:46 "These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

- 1Pe 4:15 Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; 1Pe 4:16 but if [anyone suffers] as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. 1Pe 4:17 For [it is] time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if [it] [begins] with us first, what [will be] the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 1Pe 4:18 AND IF IT IS WITH DIFFICULTY THAT THE RIGHTEOUS IS SAVED, WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE GODLESS MAN AND THE SINNER? 1Pe 4:19 Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.
- We as Christians shall stand before the Bema Judgment Seat of Christ, to be awarded crowns and glory and honor for our service to Him.
  - 2Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
  - 1Co 9:23 I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it. 1Co 9:24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but [only] one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. 1Co 9:25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then [do it] to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.
  - 2Ti 2:5 Also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.
  - 2Ti 4:8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.
  - Jas 1:12 Blessed is a man who perseveres under trial; for once he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which [the Lord] has promised to those who love Him.
  - 1Pe 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.
  - Re 2:10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.



**Discussion:** Were there any new concepts you picked up today? Is there anything you have trouble accepting in these doctrines? Did anything stand out that may prompt you to do further study? Do you feel confident that you can explain the doctrines of deity and trinity to your family, other believers, nonbelievers?

## **Application Discussion**

**Closing Benediction:** Jude 1:24-25 *“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory, blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority before all time and now and forever. Amen.”*

## **Closing Prayer**

## **Small Groups**

- Discuss current Scripture reading assignment.
- Prayer:
  - Praise reports.
  - Matters of accountability.
  - Prayer requests.