

The King of Kings and Us

Part 4: Persevere

Colossians 1:19-23 (ESV)

A WORTHY WALK IS CHARACTERIZED BY A PERSEVERING HOPE IN OUR KING.

Two Questions:

1. What is reconciliation?

- a. Definition: the re-establishment of friendly relations
- b. Theological Definition: God's restoration of a harmonious relationship with sinful humanity through Jesus Christ
- c. propitiation - sacrificial, redemption - economical, reconciliation - relational
- d. Restoration of harmony points to: Enmity
 - i. Definition - The quality of being an enemy; hostile or unfriendly disposition.
 - ii. An original (good) relationship is presupposed
 - iii. We were under wrath because of sin, enslaved to sin, and alienated from God due to sin
 - iv. Propitiation removed God's wrath, redemption paid the ransom freeing us from bondage, and **reconciliation removes our alienation from God**

Ephesians 2:14-19 (ESV)

2. How will all things be reconciled?

- a. Scripture must interpret Scripture; the scope and significance of one passage is to be brought out by relating it to others.
- b. Can't mean universal salvation
 - i. Hell
 - ii. Colossians 2:15 (ESV) He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.
 - iii. Creation
- c. Cosmic restoration/shalom - "making peace by the blood of his cross"

Creature of the Word: "The gospel. What is it, really? In its simplest form, the gospel is God's reconciling work in Christ—that through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ, God is making all things new both personally for those who repent and believe, and cosmically as He redeems culture and creation from its subjection to futility."

Ephesians 1:7-10 (ESV)

WHAT WE MUST KNOW

1. Our reconciliation is primarily for God's glory
 - You are reconciled "in order to present you ... before him" (v. 22)
 - "Their present reconciliation anticipates future presentation on the last day" (Schreiner 60)

John Piper: *"Everything in redemptive history has been God acting for his glory, therefore everything in your life is to join him in that purpose. The reason you're on the planet is to join God in making much of God."*

2. Our reconciliation is secondarily for our benefit.
 - You reconciliation means you are no longer "Alienated and hostile in mind" (v. 21)
 - You reconciliation means you are no longer enslaved to "doing evil deeds" (v. 21)

Our salvation is first for God's glory and second for our benefit. In fact, it is because it glorifies God that it is actually a benefit to us.

What We Must Do

- a) We must steadfastly pray for ourselves and one another.
- b) We must diligently read and apply God's Word.
- c) We must continually increase in our knowledge of the preeminence of Christ.

And

- d) We must solidly persevere with hope in our preeminent Reconciler, Christ the King.