



Only The Preeminent One Can Make Peace With Sinners–Pt.2

In Col 1:21-23, there are 3 ramifications of reconciliation that believers must understand to honor the preeminent Christ as a complete Savior:

(John 6:37-40, 10:27-29; Matt 24:13; John 8:31-32; 1 Cor 15:1-2)

I. You must understand your antagonistic state prior to reconciliation–v.21

II. You must understand that only Christ can accomplish reconciliation–v.22

III. You must understand that perseverance is required after reconciliation –v.23

(Col 2:6; Rom 8:23-25; Acts 20:24; Heb 3:14; Rom 11:22; 1 Pet 1:3-5; Jude 21, 24; Php 2:12-13)

Simply put, the Bible promises that if you repent and believe in Christ, you will be saved...We know that our own failings, our sinful habits, and our anemic pursuit of righteousness cannot thwart the saving purposes of God. Redemption is grounded in the saving character and holy design of Almighty God. Beloved, in Christ we are objectively secure! (1)

The doctrine of the perseverance of the saints is to the effect that they whom God has regenerated and effectually called to a state of grace, can neither totally nor finally fall away from that state, but shall certainly persevere to the end and be eternally saved...Perseverance may be defined as that continuous operation of the Holy Spirit in the believer, by which the work of divine grace that is begun in the heart, is continued and brought to completion. It is because God never forsakes His work that believers continue to stand to the very end. (2)

The definitive litmus test of genuine faith is that it perseveres all the way to the end, while imposter faith inevitably falls away...To shrink back from diligent perseverance calls into question the reality of divine preservation in your life, because one never exists without the other...In other words, diligent perseverance is not an attempt to work for your salvation apart from grace, but is the purpose and product of divine preservation. In the same manner that God gifted you with initial faith, He continues to pour out His preserving grace in your life to empower your persevering faith. (3)

Scripture records several cases of actual apostasy (1 Tim. 1:19, 20; 2 Tim. 2:17, 18; 4:10; 2 Peter 2:1, 2; cf. also Heb. 6:4–6). But these instances do not prove the contention that real believers, in possession of true saving faith, can fall from grace, unless it be shown first that the persons indicated in these passages had true faith in Christ, and not a mere temporal faith, which is not rooted in regeneration. The Bible teaches us that there are persons who profess the true faith, and yet are not of the faith, Rom 9:6; 1 Jn 2:19; Rev 3:1. John says of some of them, *They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us* (1 Jn 2:19). (4)

Such assurance of salvation and of eternal life springs from (1) a [true] understanding of the nature of salvation (2 Pet. 1:2, 3, 5–6, 8; 3:18), (2) the recognition of the immutability of the gifts and calling of God (Rom. 11:29), (3) obedience to the commandments of God (1 John 2:3), (4) self-examination (2 Cor. 13:5), (5) and the inward witness of the Holy Spirit who “himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Rom. 8:15–16; Gal. 4:6). (5)

¹ Jerry Wragg & Paul Shirley, *Free to Be Holy: The Liberating Grace of Walking by Faith* (Jupiter, FL: Grace Immanuel Bible Church, 2019), 187.

² Louis Berkhof, *Systematic Theology* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1938), 545, 546.

³ Wragg & Shirley, *Free to Be Holy*, 189, 190.

⁴ Berkhof, *Systematic Theology*, 549.

⁵ Robert L. Reymond, *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith* (Nashville: T. Nelson, 1998), 792.