

Series: *Colossians: The Supremacy and Sufficiency of Christ*
Lesson: *Reconciliation: A Complete Reversal*
Text: Colossians 1:20-23 (L4)
Date: Sunday, January 29, 2012

Colonial Hills
Baptist Church

INTRODUCTION

John MacArthur provides us with a simple paragraph review of soteriology in his commentary on Colossians 1:20-23. He summarizes the doctrine of salvation by stating that there are “five key words used in the New Testament to describe the richness of salvation in Christ...In *justification*, the sinner stands before God as the accused, guilty and condemned, but is declared righteous (Rom. 8:33). In *redemption*, the sinner stands before God as a slave, but is granted his freedom by a ransom (Rom. 6:18-22). In *forgiveness*, the sinner stands before God as a debtor, but the debt is paid and forgotten (Eph. 1:7). In *reconciliation*, the sinner stands before God as an enemy, but becomes His friend (2 Cor. 5:18-20). In *adoption*, the sinner stands before God as a stranger, but is made a son (Eph. 1:5).”²⁰

Paul magnificently demonstrated Christ’s supremacy in 1:15-19. In the following four verses (1:20-23), Paul stabilizes the Colossian believers while refuting the heretics and shows Christ’s sufficiency. He does this by discussing that fourth description of salvation—the concept of reconciliation.

What does the Greek word for “reconciliation” mean?

THE _____ FOR RECONCILIATION (vv. 20-21)

1. _____ *reconciliation (v. 20)*
2. _____ *reconciliation (v. 21)*

Application:

²⁰ MacArthur, John. *Colossians*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1996. P. 48-55. And, MacArthur, John. “Reconciled to God,” a sermon on Colossians 1:20-23 preached on April 22, 1976.

THE _____ OF RECONCILIATION (vv. 20a, 22a)

1. *Through Jesus’ _____ for us.*
2. *Through Jesus’ _____ for us.*

THE _____ OF RECONCILIATION (v. 22b)

Application:

THE _____ OF RECONCILIATION (v. 23)

Application:

CONCLUSION

From II Corinthians 5:17-21, we learn “that every believer has been given the ministry of proclaiming the message of reconciliation: God “gave us the ministry of reconciliation” (v. 18), and “He has committed to us the word of reconciliation” (v. 19). God sends His people forth as ambassadors into a fallen, lost world, bearing unbelievably good news. People everywhere are hopelessly lost and doomed, cut off from God by sin. But God has provided the means of reconciliation through the death of His Son. Our mission is to plead with people to receive that reconciliation, before it is too late. Paul’s attitude, expressed in verse 20, should mark every Christian: ‘Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.’”²¹

²¹ MacArthur, *Colossians*, pp. 63-66.