

SEMPER REFORMANDA —

Sunday, October 23, 2021 -- Reformation Series -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

Colossians 1:18-23

English Standard Version (ESV)

18 And he [Christ] is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile

in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

KEY REFORMATION REALITIES seen in Colossians 1:18-23:

1) Christ is the only _____ of the _____. vs. 18

'the head of the body': The body serves the head, yet the head sustains the body. (Col. 2:19)
'that in everything he might be preeminent' Christ surpasses all others. No rivals.

2) Christ is the only _____ of _____. vs 18-20

Because his death and resurrection gives _____ from death for all who are saved.

'the firstborn from the dead': not in chronology but _____.

Christ's resurrection _____ in our resurrection!

Even so, Christ is the first to be raised from the dead never to _____.

Revelation 2:8 "These are the words of the First and the Last, who died and returned to life."

Revelation 22:13 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."

Hebrews 7:23-28 [Jesus is the final and _____ high priest. Perfect in power and holiness.]

Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

1 Tim.2:5 "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

CONTRAST: Notice the titles give to people in the Roman, Anglican and Orthodox Church:

His Holiness, Holy Father, His Beatitude, His Eminence, His Grace, Reverend, Most Reverend, Priest, Vicar, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven, Wife of the Holy Spirit, Cause of Our Salvation, Co-medatrix with Christ, Co-redemptrix with Christ.

1997 Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph 882:

"the Pope has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered".

1997 Catechism of the Catholic Church paragraph 937:

"the Pope enjoys, by divine institution, supreme, full, immediate, and universal power in the care of souls."

All of these are false in what they infer concerning the character or function of men.

This leads to _____, false _____ and other false _____.

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- 3) Christ's sacrificial death on the cross completely _____ our relationship with God by _____ our sins and making us totally acceptable and pleasing to Him. vs 21-22**

Romans 5:8-9

8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.

This is _____ saving us from _____. see vs 9! also see 1 Peter 2:24

It's _____ CHRIST. It's _____ Christ. No one and nothing else saves and _____ us.
see vs 19 'in him', vs 20 'through him', vs 22 'he has now reconciled', 'to present you...'

- Conversion is God's _____ of repentance and faith in response to the Gospel.
 - Conversion is _____. (The difference is night/day, death/life, old/new.)
 - Conversion is _____. (Jesus said we are known by our fruit/evidence.)
 - Conversion is _____. (Temporary commitment is not genuine conversion.)
- (see John 3:1-21; 6:44; 10:27-30; Romans 3:10-20; 8:38-39; Gal. 5:19-24; 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 John 2:5-6, 19, 3:9-10)

- 4) True Christians will continue to _____ in Jesus — they will stay in HIS gospel. vs 23**

Continuing in Christ is in no way the _____ of salvation,
but it is definitely the _____ of our salvation.

Said another way: True Christians never _____ their salvation.

- 5) The Roman church left the true Gospel and invented another gospel of popes, power, and divergent doctrines. They accused the Reformers of ' _____ ' when in all reality the Reformers sought reclamation of what had been lost.**

Christians today, like the Reformers, must constantly seek to reform _____ to the one true Gospel 'which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven'. vs 23

KEY QUESTIONS/APPLICATION:

- 1) Do you sense that you need to repent of your sin and receive Christ?
- 2) Are you continuing with Christ in a biblical faith that is _____ and _____?
- 3) Are you _____ from the Gospel of Christ for hope/interest in other things?