

Lesson Nine – First Quarter 2026

Theme: *Reconciliation, Restoration, and the “If” of Continuance*

I. Opening Scripture – Colossians 1:22–23 (KJV)

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22 — In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight:

23 — If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

II. Colossians 1:22 — Breaking Down the Restoration Christ Accomplished

1. “In the body of His flesh” — Refuting Gnosticism

- Paul stresses **physicality**.
- Christ was **not** an apparition, spirit-being, or illusion.
- This destroys early Gnostic claims that Christ only *appeared* to have flesh.
- Our salvation is rooted in a **real body**, a **real cross**, a **real death**.

2. “Through death” — The Sacrifice

- Not merely an example.

- Not a metaphor.
- A literal death by which reconciliation becomes possible.
- The cross stands as the central act of restoration.

3. “To present you holy...” — The Result

Paul lists three states that Christ’s death accomplishes:

a. Holy

- Set apart
- Given a new identity
- Consecrated for God’s purpose

b. Unblameable

- No charge can be laid to your account
- The accusations of the past no longer apply

c. Unreproveable in His sight

- Not just forgiven but **beyond reproach**
- Not merely covered but **cleansed**
- The courtroom of Heaven has **no case** against you

4. Divine Perspective vs. Human Social Inertia

- We walk into church **redeemed**, but some people may still remember the *old* us.
- Humanity may cling to past failures.
- But God sees what **Christ accomplished**, not what we were.

- The only evaluation that ultimately matters is His:
 - **He sees us holy**
 - **He sees us unblameable**
 - **He sees us unreprouable**
 - This is reconciliation: being restored to a standing you could never earn.
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III. Colossians 1:23 — The Conditional “If” and Its Power

Paul moves from **what Christ has done** → to **our ongoing response**:

“If ye continue in the faith...”

IV. The Greek “If” — Which Condition Is It?

There are **four conditional particles** used in Greek (“if” clauses):

1. **First-class** — *If, and it is assumed true.*
2. **Second-class** — *If, and it is assumed false.*
3. **Third-class** — *If, maybe yes maybe no; depends on conditions.*
4. **Fourth-class** — *If, and it is highly unlikely (rare in NT).*

****The “If” here in Colossians 1:23 is FIRST-CLASS.**

Meaning:

- It assumes the condition **will** be met.

- A better rendering is:
 - “If you continue in the faith — and I expect that you will...”

Sermonizing This:

- Paul is not threatening; he is **encouraging**.
 - He is not doubting their salvation; he is **affirming their trajectory**.
 - He expects the believers to remain faithful because:
 - The Spirit is working in them.
 - Christ has already reconciled them.
 - They have already begun the journey.
 - This becomes a call to **confidence**, not fear.
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V. “Continue” — The Word of Persistence

The verb ἐπιμένω (*epimenō*) means:

- To persist
- To remain
- To stay fixed
- To keep on going despite resistance

Example Mentioned: Peter at the Door

- In Acts 12:16, Peter **continued knocking** (same root idea).
- Rhoda couldn’t believe it was him.

- Peter just **kept on** until the door opened.

Sermon Point:

- Blessings come to those who **keep knocking**.
 - Persistence opens doors that disbelief tries to close.
 - If we remain persistent in faith:
 - grounded,
 - settled,
 - unmoved from the hope of the Gospel,
 - then the reconciliation promised in verse 22 becomes **experientially real**.
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VI. “Grounded and Settled”

Paul uses construction language:

Grounded (themelioō)

- Built on a foundation
- Immovable because the base is strong

Settled (hedraios)

- Steadfast
- Seated firmly
- Not easily pushed off center

Together:

The Christian life is not blown by every wind or swayed by every pressure.
Christ reconciled us → now we stand firm in that reality.

VII. Application: The Reconciled Life

1. Christ's death restores our standing.
 2. Christ's presence strengthens our continuance.
 3. Our role is persistence — continuing, knocking, enduring.
 4. The result: God sees us as we are in Christ, not as we were in sin.
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VIII. Closing Thought

Reconciliation is not fragile.

The “if” of Colossians 1:23 reflects **confidence**, not doubt.

Christ restores us, presents us, and empowers us —

and He fully expects us to continue in the faith that He Himself sustains.