

- ## CONNECT

WORD

²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—²³if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

COLOSSIANS 1:21-23

WHAT

The gospel is the power of God not just for our salvation but also for our transformation (Romans 1:16,17). How does the message of the gospel affect our lives in the present?

1 God has reconciled us to Himself.

²¹Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²²But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation . . . COLOSSIANS 1:21,22

We were once so far away from God—considered as His enemies, separated from Him by our evil thoughts and actions. But through Christ's finished work on the cross, His death and resurrection, this moral separation has been bridged and we are reconciled to God. What did it take for us to be reconciled with God?

2 God makes us holy in His sight.

But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation . . . COLOSSIANS 1:22

What Jesus did on the cross made it possible for us to be cleansed, enabled to die more and more to sin, and live a holy life. This process is called sanctification (1 Thessalonians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 1:2). How does God sanctify us (Colossians 3:1-10)?

3 The gospel empowers us to continue in our faith.

. . . if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. COLOSSIANS 1:23

We are changed as we persevere in faith. This happens as we allow God's Word to sanctify us and as we obey it (John 17:17). What does the Word of God cleanses us from (Ephesians 5:26)? How does the renewing of our minds help us continue in our faith?
