

## RETURNING TO GOD

Colossians 1:21-23 ... "And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now he has reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in his sight – if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel..."

The idea that you can be saved from the penalty of your sins, be embraced by your creator, and guaranteed a life of amazing blessings for eternity, is an idea we all cling to. Being born again is the best decision we will each make in our lifetimes. But, at the moment you accept Christ as your Savior, you are not encountering God for the first time. Each of us, when we finally admit we are sinful and need help, and decide to let God lead us through life, are actually being re-introduced to him. Even if you live to the age of 90 before accepting Christ as Lord, you are not a stranger to God.

Two words in verse 21 of today's scripture passage help us understand how being born again is an act of returning to God, not meeting him for the first time. The word "alienated" means that before you were saved, you had previously moved away from God. God created you, brought you into this world, and gave you life. At the moment of your conception you were God's creation. And, by virtue of the fact that he created you, you belonged to him. But, at some point in your life you rejected God's role in your life and you separated yourself from him.

The word "reconciled" confirms the same thing. The definition of reconcile is to re-establish a relationship or to settle a dispute. When you reconcile with God, you are reconnecting with him and fixing a broken relationship. He did not abandon you, but you turned your back on him.

The amazing thing about your reconciliation with God, is that it is available only because Jesus died to pay for your sins. You cannot reconcile with God under any other terms or conditions. And, not only that, but verse 22 tells you that by accepting Christ as your substitute on the cross, he presents you holy and blameless to the Father. Imagine that! You, a person who likely committed many sins for which you owe many people apologies; a person who still is far from perfect, has been declared by Christ as holy and blameless. I do not know about you, but I am fully aware of all of the mistakes I have made in my past and I know that I do not deserve to be saved. But, through the grace of God he declares my relationship whole again and he will never again mention my sins to me. I hope you desire the same thing and return to God if you have wandered away.

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