

## Context

- 1] Young church in 'backwater' inland in modern turkey - religiously diverse
- 2] The main thing - Jesus is God, creator, sustainer, leader (1:15-19)

## God reconciles all things (19, 20)

1] Who? (19) –

a) God was pleased

*cf (Lk 3:22; Jn 1:14; 1Cor 1:21; Gal 1:15)*

\*God has pleasure / emotions\*

b) all His fullness dwell in Him

*cf fullness of the deity (2:19)*

\*JESUS is completely divine\*

2] Why? (20a, b)

a) reconcile to Himself (20a)

*nb – restore harmony - Reconciler = mediator (1 Tim 2:5; Gal 3:20)*

*cf Romans 5:9,10; 2 Cor 5:18*

*cf reconcile Jew and Gentile by the cross through which he put to death their hostility (KJV enmity) (Eph 2:16; cf Gen 3:16)*

b) All things – earth or in Heaven (20b)

*cf all things (16,17) – all things = the whole creation? (Rmns 8:22)*

*Heaven (1:5, 23; 4:1)*

\*JESUS' death on the cross is the means by which all things are reconciled to God\*

3] How? (20c) –

a) Making peace

*nb called to peace (3:15)*

*cf since we have been justified by faith, we have peace (Rmns 5:1)*

b) Through His blood

*cf by His blood – atonement (Rmns 3:25) justified (Rmns 5:9) redemption (Eph 1:7)*

c) Shed on the cross

*cf Gal 3:13*

## You are reconciled? (21 -23a)

1] You were (21)

a) alienated from God (21a)

*cf Try to be justified by Law have been alienated from Christ (Gal 5:4)*

b) enemies of God (21b)

*cf While we were God's enemies we were reconciled to Him by the death of His son (Rmns 5:10)*

c) in your minds (21c)

*nb not just the mind but the way it works but the process of understanding and intellect*

d) because of evil behaviour (21d)

2] Now (22)

a) reconciled by Christ's physical body (22a)

nb *physical body -spiritually neutral* –(not gk *sarx* =flesh and humanity - opposed to God )

\*GRACE - God reconciles us to Himself while we were enemies\*

\*JESUS has a real physical body\*

\*Marvel at God's grace\*

b) through death (22b)

cf His / *Our death* (*Rmns 6:4,5; Gal 2:20*)

c) to present you holy in His sight, (22c)

1) without blemish

*Cf the bride of Christ* (*Ephesians 5:27*)

2) free from accusation

*Nb The accuser* (*Rev 12:10*)

*cf To present you before His glorious presence without fault and with great joy* (*Jude 1:24*)

\*God's presence demands absolute holiness\*

**... if you continue in the Gospel ... (23)**

1] Personally

a) continue in faith

nb *Possible to reject the reconciliation* (*Rmn 1:18; 2:16; 14:10; 2Cor5:10; 2 Thess1:5-10*)

b) established and firm

nb *Foundation of rock* (*Luke 6:38*)

c) not moved from hope held out in the Gospel

*cf Hebrews 11:1*

\*persevere in your faith in Jesus\*

\*Allow nothing to sway you from your hope in Jesus\*

2] Universally

a) for you

b) for every creature

*Nb been clearly seen by men - without excuse* (*Rom 1:20*)

*cf The true light gives light to every man* (*John 1:9*)

\*Acknowledge that every creature under Heaven has heard the gospel (though to some the name of Jesus may not have been explicit)\*

c) served by Paul

**MP** *God sets believers right with Himself completely, by their dying with Christ*

**KV** *'But now He has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in His sight ...' (22)*

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