

March 8, 2020

Pastor Steve Hardy

Unmoved
Colossians 1:21-23

Jesus makes a clear statement about his sheep, in terms of an identifying characteristic. They are following him! (John 10:27). As Paul writes to the Colossian believers about their identity, he recognizes this is one telling mark of one who is indeed forgiven and reconciled to God: they continue in the faith, "unmoved" from the hope of the gospel.

I. The LIFE-CYCLE of the follower of Jesus, Colossians 1:21-22.

A. What you WERE: ALIENATED, HOSTILE, EVILDOER

B. What you ARE: RECONCILED

C. What you WILL BE: HOLY, BLAMELESS, ABOVE REPROACH

II. The LIFE-CERTAINTY of the follower of Jesus, Colossians 1:23.

A. Continuing in the faith provides CERTAINTY of life. See also John 10:27; 1 John 2:18-25.

"The believer perseveres because he is saved; he is not saved because he perseveres."

B. Continuing in the faith involves CONFIDENCE.

C. Believers are UNMOVED from the hope of the gospel.

In the crush of life circumstances, doubt may come. But one who has embraced the hope of the gospel by faith will, by virtue of their new nature and the indwelling Spirit, continue in their faith in Jesus. The gift of eternal life, once imparted, will come to full fruit in future glory!

Family Time:

Having assurance of salvation is a major issue with many people. What does Jesus mean when he says plainly that his sheep follow him (John 10:27)? Talk about the concept of following Jesus. What do you think it means and what does it look like? Who or what other people do you follow because you believe them? What is the relationship between faith (believing Jesus) and following?

For Further Study, Thought, and Discussion:

1. The "life cycle" reflected in Colossians 1:21-22 is true of every believer. Reflect on your own life in this pattern: What has that life cycle looked like up to this point? Share testimonies of your own experience with Christ from where you are at today in the life cycle.

2. There is a future when followers of Jesus will be presented holy, blameless and above reproach. Where, when, and to whom? For those who one day will be presented in this way, what is the present expectation? Explain this from Colossians 3:1-17, 1 Peter 1:3-2:3, and other relevant passages you are familiar with or can discover.

2. There is a major difference between persevering because we are saved and being saved because we persevere. Discuss this difference. What insights do you gain from John 10 and 1 John 2 related to this difference?

NEXT WEEK: "Ministry, Mystery and Maturity" Colossians 1:24-2:5
Pastor Andy McClellan