

Colossians 1:21-29**MONDAY: Read Colossians 1**

As you continue re-reading this chapter, which part seems to be growing in significance? Why? *Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you what you need to know about these truths that He is opening up to you.*

TUESDAY: Read Colossians 1:21-22

Exactly what are we included in that is referenced in v21 (*Hint: read vs 1:19-20*)? Can you name some of the ways that you were an enemy of/to God before salvation? What are the purposes and plans of enemies? How often do enemies become friends? Why? *Ask the Spirit to enhance your understanding of Christ's marvelous reconciliation between you and the Father at the cost of His life!*

WEDNESDAY: Read Colossians 1:22-23

Look up the word "reconciled." Is it a word/concept used in legal or relational issues? Identify the condition in which God brought you into His own presence. Why are these qualities necessary? Why is it difficult to believe that you are made to be holy & blameless? *Ask Spirit to help you be receptive & willing to partake and demonstrate the holiness and blamelessness of Christ in you by His power!*

THURSDAY: Read Colossians 1:24-25; Philippians 3:10-12

How do the physical sufferings Paul refers to in his body connect him to Christ's experience? How do they help Paul know Jesus better? How might suffering relate to "the entire message" of the gospel? Do you expect to suffer more as you reflect Christ more accurately in this world? Why or why not? *Ask the Spirit to make you more aware of the connection between conversion, character, conduct, & suffering.*

FRIDAY: Read Colossians 1:26-27

During which covenant was the gospel kept secret? To whom was the gospel kept secret? What is the gospel revealed? How does this affect the understanding of the gospel among Jews? Among Gentiles? *Ask Spirit to alert you to worldly influences that keep you from sharing the gospel with others.*

SATURDAY: Read Colossians 1:28-29

In what way(s) can Paul help to present others to God, perfect in their relationship? What do many Christians seem to lack? How does comprehensive teaching affect this void? *Thank God for all He's showing you, teaching you directly and indirectly through others, and changing in you!*

(Use your own Bible & this New Living Translation for comparison, study, & better understanding)

Colossians 1:21-29 (NLT)

21) This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. **22)** Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

23) But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.

24) I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church. **25)** God has given me the responsibility of serving his church by proclaiming his entire message to you.

26) This message was kept secret for centuries and generations past, but now it has been revealed to God's people. **27)** For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.

28) So we tell others about Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all the wisdom God has given us. We want to present them to God, perfect in their relationship to Christ. **29)** That's why I work and struggle so hard, depending on Christ's mighty power that works within me.