



**Calvary Chapel South Bay  
Men's Ministry 2018 – 19**

**“Putting Christ First”**

**Session 4**

**October 23, 2018**

**“Where you now stand with God”**

If you have put Christ first in your life by receiving the gospel message, making Him Lord over your life, your life has been radically changed. But for that change to be manifested itself in your daily life, you must see yourself as God now sees you. You **“once were”** alienated from God by your sins, **“but now”** you have been **“reconciled”** to God by the cross of Christ. God no longer sees you as a sinner, but as a son. In His sight you are **“holy, and blameless, and above reproach.”** Though your outward performance often doesn't line up with this picture, this is who God says you are in Christ. It is not what you have achieved by your own efforts, but what God has given you by Jesus Christ, who is your **“hope.”** But all this is not true for you if you simply raised your hand one day, but went on with life as if you hadn't. As you continue to place your faith in the hope of the gospel, Jesus Christ, and believe what God says about you, you will see who you are in His sight come more and more into view outwardly.

**Passage:** Colossians 1:21-23

**Personal Study Time Questions:**

**Scripture: Colossians 1:21**

Who does Paul say we **“once”** were? What does it mean to you when it says you were once this?

**Scripture: Colossians 1:21b–22a**

Even in how we stand in God's sight now is dependent on Jesus. What has He done to change that standing from being **“alienated and enemies”** and how did He do it?

**Scripture: Colossians 1:22**

The word translated **“to present”** refers to something that has been done for you in the past, when you received the gospel message for yourself. What does God say you **now** are **“in His sight”**?

**Scripture: Ephesians 2:1**

How does this verse describe the drastic change that took place in your life when you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

**Scripture: Colossians 1:23**

What must you do and be if you are to walk in the truth of who you are because you put Jesus first? What must you not do?

**Scripture: John 15:6-7**

What do these verses tell us we must do, and how, if we are to not be **“moved away from the hope of the gospel.”**

*Note: Look up the words “holy, blameless, and above reproach” in an exhaustive concordance to more fully understand how God NOW sees you.*

**Personal meditation time with Jesus:**

Think about the fact that you have been “**reconciled**” to God through Christ, and that God wants you to enjoy your special relationship with Him and believe how He now sees you. How can this dynamic truth change how you see yourself, and how it can affect how you live?

But He doesn't want you to keep the joy of this gift to yourself. What does 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 say He has also “**given**” and “**committed**” to us now that we have been reconciled to Him?

**Hide God's Word in your heart (Ps. 119:11):**

“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.””

Colossians 1:21-22