



FOR PEOPLE ON THE GROW "Getting There from Here" Colossians 1:21-29

No. 5028

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John Bunyan's famous allegory, "Pilgrim's Progress," described the journey of the believer from the "slough of despond" to "the celestial city." In less picturesque terms, Paul did the same for the Colossians. We, too, need to know how to get there from here.

I. Where We Were. v. 21

- A. Alienated from God.
- B. Antagonistic in attitude.
- C. Active in evil.

II. Where We Are. v. 22

- A. We are reconciled to God.
 - 1. Divine initiative – "He has reconciled."
 - 2. Divine incarnation – "Christ's physical body."
 - 3. Divine intervention – "through death."
- B. We are justified by God.
 - 1. Presentation – "to present you."
 - a. Holy.
 - b. Without blemish.
 - c. Free from accusation.
 - 2. Proclamation. See above
 - 3. Perseverance – "if you continue."
 - a. In the faith.
 - b. Well-founded.
 - c. Loyal.
 - d. Convinced and confident.

"Continuance is the rest of reality." - F.F. Bruce

III. Where We Are Going. vv. 23-29

- A. The end of our faith.
 - 1. The hope of the gospel. v. 23
 - 2. The hope of glory. v. 27
 - 3. The promise of perfection. v. 28
 - a. Presentation at the "*parousia*."
 - b. Progress of the process.
- B. The means to the end.
 - 1. Mystery as means.
 - a. The revelation of truth.
 - b. The truth of "Christ in you."
 - 2. Ministry as means.
 - a. Ministry means suffering. v. 24
 - b. Ministry means service. vv. 23, 25
 - c. Ministry means stewardship. v. 25
 - d. Ministry means sharing. v. 28
 - i. Proclaiming.
 - ii. Admonishing.
 - iii. Teaching.
 - e. Ministry means struggling. v. 29

N.B. "Every man" – 3 times.