

Letters to Worldnet Grace Ministries

Question & Answers

October 2017

Johnny,

I just wanted to inquire about your take on Colossians 1: 22-23.

From what I can take away from the Greek it looks like "continue" means
more along the lines of abide/stay.

The word "faith" in verse 23 simply means trust.

To me it looks like the passage should say that

you simply continue trusting in the truth that Jesus did in fact
make verse 21-22 become are reality in Christ.

I would also love to hear your take on the subject, appreciate it in advance.

A.B.
Las Vegas, Nevada

Johnny's answer:

Very astute observations!

Yes, the word "ἐπιμένετε" (epimenete) which is translated as "remain" in the King James Version, and "continue" in the New American Standard does indeed convey the meaning of "to abide" or "to stay". In modern English we might say "Hang in there".

Answer continued on the next page . . .

Therefore our status as "holy and blameless" is not something we have the ability to do. We do not have the ability, even as believers, to live holy lives. We are holy, therefore, because the faith in Jesus that saved us (our trusting in Jesus) is the same faith that makes us holy.

And more good news: The word translated "If" is actually "Since" So not only is it true that our continued faith in Jesus makes us holy, it is also true that the faith we have will continue on - by God's decree!

Implementing these changes, Colossians 1:22-23 would read:

22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—

23 ~~if~~ **since** you continue {i.e., you continue to abide} in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from ~~the hope~~ the certainty held out in the gospel {i.e., the good news of Jesus Christ}.

Johnny Tatum

A.B. responded to answer:

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Johnny Tatum, I appreciate your response and your studies in the Lord.

"Tufts" has also helped me out tremendously which you mentioned in times past.

That word "if" in the passage I also questioned, I was just not sure about it as well.

I knew something was off, thanks for the clarity on that.

It looks like Col 1:23 (NKJV) from those corrections should actually read...

"since" indeed you "remain / trusting", grounded and steadfast,

and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard,

which was preached to every creature under heaven,

of which I, Paul, became a minister.

One more question Johnny,

I was just wondering what your take on Galatians 5:19-21 was

concerning inheriting the kingdom of God.

I figure verse 24 wraps up what Paul meant.

The word inherit (v.21) from Tufts dictates "to be an inheritor or heir".

In context he spoke previously in 4:30 of two covenants and

"the son of the bondwoman shall not be "heir" with the freewoman."

So it must be contrast and compare, I conclude by law you cannot inherit anything,

it's only by grace (gospel).

Rom 8:9 pretty much declares where we are in Christ.

So since he's speaking to a church full of mixture I assume he's saying that

we cannot inherit anything by works.

You don't technically inherit something by works anyway.

A.B.

Johnny's answer:

You are absolutely correct about inheritances.

They are not obtained by merit or by good works.

Even in the physical realm, in order to receive an inheritance,

one must be born into a family with a wealthy ancestor, who dies,

having named you in his will.

The analogy is obvious.

We were born again as sons and daughters of God.

Our wealthy ancestor Jesus died as our substitute and

named us in His will (testament).

Johnny Tatum

A.B. responded to answer:

Thank you very much.

I figured inheriting something would have something to do with someone dying first.

Which also makes perfect sense with vs 24

"Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have CRUCIFIED the flesh

with its passions and desires."

We are partakers with all that Jesus is and has.

Including his death, burial, and resurrection.

Thanks again!

A.B.