



Colossians 1:21-27 “The Choice To Rejoice”

21 And **you**, who once were **alienated and enemies** (active verbs, actively alienated, actively enemies) in your mind by wicked works, **yet now He has reconciled** (redeemed, cleansed, forgiven)

22 in the body of His flesh **through death**,
to present you holy,
and blameless,
and above reproach in His sight—

- **Jesus wants to show us off to His Father**
- **“Look what I did, Dad! – this guy, who was a wretched loser, is now a winner!”**
 - He's Holy, Dad!
 - He's blameless, Dad!
 - He's above reproach, Dad!

23 if indeed you continue in the faith, 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.

“alienated”

- **11.75 ἀπαλλοτριόμαι:** (derivative of ἀλλότριος ‘stranger, foreigner,’ 11.74) to be a stranger or foreigner—**to be a stranger, to be a foreigner.** ἀπηλλοτριωμένοι τῆς

πολιτείας τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ ‘you were foreigners not belonging to the people of Israel’ Eph 2:12. 1

3 Wonderful Truths in Romans 5:

Romans 5:6, 8, 10

6 For when we were still without strength,

in due time **Christ died for the ungodly.**

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us,

in that **while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

10 For if when we were enemies we were **reconciled to God through the death of His Son**, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Ephesians 2:1–4

1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,

3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

Ephesians 2:12–13

12 that at that time you were without Christ, **being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.**

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

24 I now (a continuous choice) **rejoice** in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,

- The choice to rejoice!
 - Counting it ALL JOY when you FALL into various trials. (James 1:1-5)

1 Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 132.

- **“Rejoice”** – (chairō) means to be glad and is present tense, active voice (this voice calling for a volitional choice of one's will)

indicating that Paul continually made the choice to rejoice in the midst of his suffering for Christ.

- This word is used to describe a little lamb skipping around for joy.
- It describes a physical change in your countenance.
- **You can't fake this.**
- It is a physical expression of joy and something that radiates to people around you. You can walk around and say that you are rejoicing, but if it's not seen, then you're not rejoicing. ²

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in regard to need, **for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:**

What? Glory in our tribulations?

Romans 5:3–5

3 And not only that, **but we also glory in tribulations,**

knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;

4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

2 Corinthians 4:17–18

17 For **our light affliction,**

which is but for a moment,

is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal **weight of glory,**

18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 7:4 Great is my confidence toward you;

great is my boasting on your behalf;

I am filled with encouragement;

I am overflowing with joy in all our affliction. ³

1 Corinthians 4:9–13

9 For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last,

² https://www.preceptaustin.org/colossians_124-29

³ W. Hall Harris III et al., eds., *The Lexham English Bible* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2012), 2 Co 7:4.

as men condemned to death;

for we have been made a spectacle to the world,
both to angels and to men.

10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ!

We are weak, but you are strong!

You are distinguished, but we are dishonored!

11 To the present hour we both hunger and thirst,
and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless.

12 And we labor, working with our own hands.

Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure;

13 being defamed, we entreat.

We have been made as the filth of the world,
the offscouring of all things until now.

- **Spurgeon** – “**I am afraid that all the grace that I have got out of my comfortable and easy times and happy hours might almost lie on a penny. But the good that I have received from my sorrows, and pains, and griefs, is altogether incalculable.**

What do I not owe to the crucible and the furnace, the bellows that have blown up the coals, and the hand which has thrust me into the heat?

I am sure I have derived more real benefit from the furnace of affliction, than I have ever derived from prosperity.”

25 of which I **became** a minister
according to the stewardship from God
which was given to me **for you,**
to fulfill the word of God,

26 **the mystery** which has been hidden from ages and from generations,
but now has been revealed to His saints.

The Mystery

- **Religion cloaked in hidden mysteries known, or revealed, only by the select few – the GNOSTICS**
- The Gnostics talked much of “**mysteries.**” Paul takes their very word (already in common use, Matt. 13:11) and uses it for the gospel. ⁴
 - The Colossian heresy boasted of a “fullness” of knowledge possible **only through their mystical experience.** ⁵
 - Masonic Lodge

⁴ A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Col 1:26.

⁵ Norman L. Geisler, “Colossians,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 675.

- Fraternal ORDERS
- MORMONISM
- Rosicrucianism
 - The mysterious doctrine of the order is "built on esoteric truths of the ancient past", which "concealed from the average man, provide insight into nature, the physical universe, and the spiritual realm. ⁶

Alan Axelrod, author of the International Encyclopedia of Secret Societies and Fraternal Orders, defines a secret society as an organization that:

1. is exclusive
2. claims to own special secrets
3. shows a strong inclination to favor its members.

- **Paul declared that the fullness of the mystery is found only in Christ.**

By “mystery” he meant something once concealed but then revealed.

- This contrasted with the Colossian heretics' notion that a mystery was a secret teaching known only to an exclusive group and unknown to the masses. ⁷

7 Revelations of PAUL concerning our ignorance:

1. Righteousness in Christ alone. Rom 10.3
2. Salvation of the Jews – Romans 11.25
3. Marriage Eph 5.31
4. Spiritual Gifts. 1 Cor 12.1
5. Missions rigor 2 Cor 2.8
6. Devil's Devices 2 Cor 2.11
7. Life after death 1 Thess 4.13

27 To them God willed to make known

what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles:
which is Christ in you,
the hope of glory.

- God wanted us to know!
 - **To know what?**

⁶ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosicrucianism>

⁷ Norman L. Geisler, "Colossians," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 675.

- The riches of the glory
- Glory among even the Gentiles
 - This is the crowning wonder to Paul that God had included the Gentiles in his redemptive grace, “the riches of the glory of this mystery” (το πλουτος της δοξης του μυστηριου τουτου [*to ploutos tēs doxēs tou mustēriou toutou*]) and that Paul himself has been made the minister of this grace among the Gentiles (Eph. 3:1–2). ⁸
- What is that Glory?
 - Christ in you!
 - He is addressing Gentiles, but the idea of ἐν [*en*] here is in, not among. It is the personal experience and presence of Christ in the individual life of all believers that Paul has in mind, the indwelling Christ in the heart as in Eph. 3:17.⁹

⁸ A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Col 1:27.

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