

Sermon: “*The Arminian Elephant in the Calvinist’s Room*”

Text: Colossians 1:21-23 (page 983 in pew Bible)

I . *Humiliation* over what we were, vs. 21 (“You, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds”)

- **God views us as separated from Him because of our sins.**
Isaiah 59:2 “Your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.”
- **God considers us His enemies.**
Romans 5:10 “We were God’s enemies”
- **We are under God’s wrath**
Ephesians 2:3 “We were by nature deserving of wrath.”

“But what about all those good people (like myself) I know who are not Christians?”

For your consideration: The First Commandment: “You shall have no other gods before Me.”

II. Leading to *appreciation* for God’s *reconciliation*, vs. 22 (“He has now reconciled (you) in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him”)

I Peter 2:24 and 3:18 “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross; Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, *to bring you to God.*”

Now we can have peace with God:

Romans 5:1 “Since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- **You are His sheep, (John 10:27)**
- **You are His people, (I Peter 1:10)**
- **You are his beloved bride, (Revelation 19:7)**
- **You are His son or daughter, (John 1:12)**
- **You are a member of His body, (I Corinthians 12:27)**
- **You are a Friend. A confident. (John 15:14-15)**

III. Guaranteeing our *preservation* in our new life for time and eternity, vs. 23 (“If indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard.”)

1. **“Will every person who says they believe in Jesus end up in heaven?”**
2. **“Will every person who has become a genuine Christian end up in heaven?”**

1. **Matthew 7:21** “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven.”

I John 2:19 “They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

2. **What does it mean to become a Christian?**

Given a new heart - changed by God, (Ezekiel 36:26)

Given a new nature - given by God, (Romans 8:9)

You have been born- again - by God’s Spirit (John 3:3)

Made alive - by God’s power, (Ephesians 2:4-5)

John 10:27-28 “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.

Romans 8:30 “Those he predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.”

“If our salvation is guaranteed by God, then what’s the purpose of the warnings and exhortations?”