ACTION: Persevere in faith 'cos Christ has made peace for you and will make you perfect.

Colossians 1:21-23

OPENING AND PROBLEM ANALYSIS

Problem:
The fear of giving up the Gospel because of opposition

It has these important manifestations:
- This fear displaces Christ resulting in man-centeredness
- This fear demoralizes resulting in sin.
- This fear destabilizes resulting in inconsistency

Allusion to the Solution:
This fear and its consequences can be removed and replaced with confident expectation of perseverance.

TRANSITION
The Colossians looked forward at the difficulties and looked at their own weakness. Paul helped the Colossians persevere by asking them to look back and look at Christ’s power. Let’s learn from him.

FIRST INSIGHT
Christ has made peace for you (21-22a)
Data:
- You were alienated (21)
- You were hostile (21)
- You were an evil-doer (21)
- You were reconciled by Christ (21)

TRANSITION
OK that backward look is encouraging. But what’s ahead?

SECOND INSIGHT
Christ will make you perfect (22b)
Data:
- Christ will perfect you (22)
- Christ will present you (22)

TRANSITION
OK I’ve looked to the past and I’ve looked to the future. What do I do in the present?

THIRD INSIGHT
Christ calls you to persevere (23)
Data:
- Persevere in faith (23)
- Persevere in stability (22)
- Persevere in hope (22)

TRANSITION
Do you see what provision Christ has made for our perseverance?

CLOSING/CALL TO ACTION
1. You fear you will give up the Gospel because of strong opposition and your own weakness. That fear displaces Christ, demoralizes and destabilizes. 2. Christ calls you to look backwards and forwards to help you persevere in Gospel hope and faith. 3. Persevere in faith and hope because Christ has made peace for you and will make you perfect.