

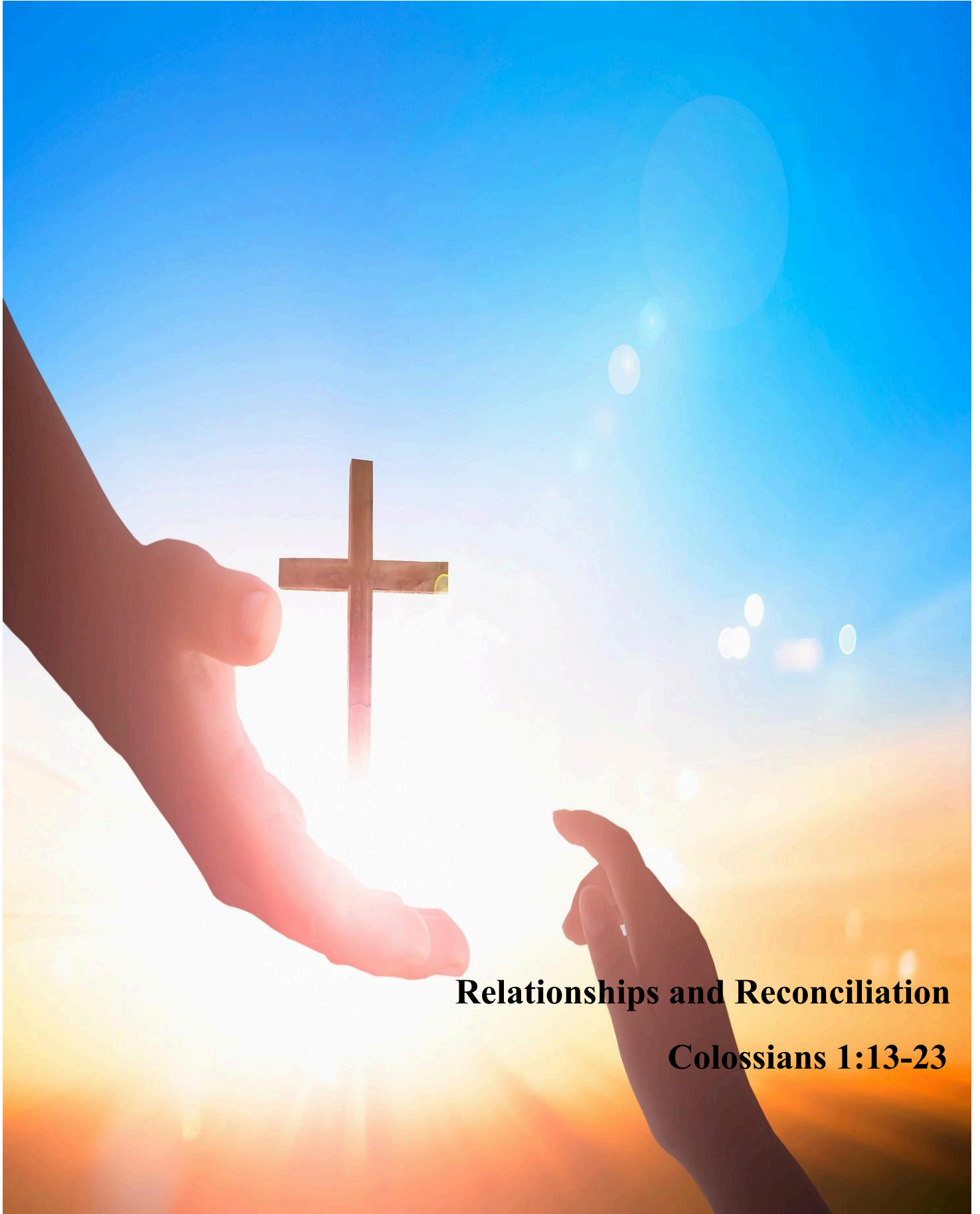


It is our desire to equip each generation to:
Celebrate the King, Become like Christ, and Connect the Lost

CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH

900 BROGDEN RD. HOUSTON, TX 77024
CBCHOUSTON.ORG
713.461.0963

Jan 5, 2025



Relationships and Reconciliation

Colossians 1:13-23

Jan 5, 2025

Welcome to CBC

We are excited for you to join us in worship today. Our prayer is that through the singing of gospel truths, hearing the scriptures proclaimed, and being around the saints, you will leave edified and equipped to live on mission with God for His glory.

Preparation Romans 11:33-36 (CSB)

Welcome Roberta Leo

Adoration Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow
Great Is Thy Faithfulness
Great Things
Hallelujah For The Cross

Prayer Raymond Yu

Scripture Reading Colossians 1:13-23 (CSB)
Wayne Gor

Proclamation Relationships and Reconciliation
Pastor Donald Gardner

Response Music Be Thou My Vision

Lord's Supper Pastor Donald Gardner

Offertory Prayer Wayne Gor

Announcements Mimi Chew

Benediction Pastor Oleg Xu

Reminder: Church Wide Prayer Meeting today at 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary



Give through a quick text message. Text "GIVE" to (281) 369-9265 to donate



Text: CBCHOUSTON to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates



If you have a prayer need or would like to speak with a pastor, please call: (713) 461-0963



For all additional announcements and information visit: cbchouston.org

Colossians 1:13-23 (CSB)

13 He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. **14** In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. **15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through him and for him. **17** He is before all things, and by him all things hold together. **18** He is also the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. **19** For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, **20** and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. **21** Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds as expressed in your evil actions. **22** But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him— **23** if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it.

Notes:

INTRODUCTION:

Paul had never visited the church but still felt the need to write to this church. The point being that Paul understood when Jesus said that He loved the Church and gave Himself for it (Eph. 5:25). No church is without challenges but Christ still loves His people.

I. The Colossian Heresy of the Essenes: They believed God to be a principle and not a real living power. Paul spoke to their sin of focusing on their own thinking while ignoring their impact on the true church by their actions.

II. A Walk Toward Reconciliation (Col. 1:14-18) The message is aimed against the angel worshipping people of that church...their Spiritual issue. We too must guard that our actions and service are done with the right attitudes and humble spirits that focus on never harming Christ's Church. After all, Christ is the head of the body, the church (Col. 1:18) and no believer would intentionally harm Christ's beloved church with our actions.

III. How Does One Become Reconciled with God? (1:19-23) Colossians 1:23: "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." "Reconciliation," from Paul's view, is not a man to man concern but is more importantly a matter about the relationship between man and God.

Pastor's Word by Pastor Donald Gardner

"A person's mental and moral qualities"

Jesus is my hero, my mentor, and my Lord. He "feared not," allowing truth and dedication to His life's purpose in directing His choices. Jesus faced persecution for his faithfulness to live by His ethical principles and follow his moral compass. The Pharisees and Sadducees of His day were religious leaders who often challenged Him to live by their standards. Satan directly pushed Him with the societal temptations of power, position, and earthly reward. The governmental leadership found little to hold him responsible for, but still did not stand to defend Him as those leaders crumbled before the will of societal and Jewish desires.

The land in which Jesus walked was not unlike our own. The life actions that we take daily, reveal our character and values just as Jesus' actions proved His character of selflessness, courage of conviction, and heart of sacrifice. The path of Jesus held temptations and challenges, and yet, He was not one to deny, run from, or ignore those issues. He chose to bravely reveal and live the truth. Christ's modeling for us as His disciples was one of courage and dedication. Facing problems was a strength of Christ, and yet, it came with a price for Him. He had disciples who served Him as coworkers and brothers, but at times, they walked away from Him when the pressures of being a follower grew too great for their commitment. Indeed, when Christ faced government and religious leadership that ultimately took Him to a cross, there were few who surrounded Him in support. When we follow Christ as a disciple, it is hoped that His Character guides our ethics, morals, and faith to reflect Him.

My Jesus is the one who healed the sick and cleansed the temple by driving out animals and overturning the tables of the moneychangers. He stood up to the Pharisees/Sadducees when they incorrectly presented the theological teachings of God. He also prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane on His way to the Cross. Preaching truth with honesty, strength, and confidence meant that the manipulation of people was never His intent. He allowed people the freedom to choose truth and the accompanying actions of those choices or have people walk their own paths and then endure the consequences. We must all "own our decisions, words, and actions" in life if we are to be His disciples.

Announcements

- **Looking for volunteers to help take down all the Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 5, 2025 after the Church Wide Prayer Meeting at 1 pm.** Since there will be no lunch today, if you consider staying to help, please plan accordingly and meet back in the FLC from 1 to 3 pm for further instructions and directions. Thank you for your willingness to help the decoration team.
- **Short Missions trip Information and discussion will be on Sunday, Jan 12 and Jan 19, 2025 from 1 pm to 1:30 pm in room 134.** There will be information and discussion about upcoming short missions' trips for year 2025: a) Spring Break mission will be in Galveston, TX (March 12-15 / March 16-19, 2025) with Texas Baptists Youth Missions. b) Summer Mission trips will be going to Dallas (June 7-8, 2025) with the North American Missions Board (SBC), c) Cambodia (June 29 - July 6, 2025), and d) Taiwan (July 5 - 11, 2025). Everyone who is interested is welcome to attend the discussion.
- **Senior Rainbow Chinese New Year celebration will be on Thursday, Jan 23, 2025 from 10 am to noon in the FLC.** The cost is \$7/ person. Please RSVP by Monday, Jan 20, 2025 to Dorothy Chow (281-222-9180) or Josephine Jue (832-651-5314).
- Please view your group volunteer shift for Sunday lunch rotation schedule in this link below: <https://tinyurl.com/lunch-rotation-2025>

Donald Gardner Senior Pastor pastordon@cbchouston.org	Jian Yang (John) Mandarin Pastor pastorjohn@cbchouston.org	Kai Yuen Choi Cantonese Pastor pastorkaiyuen@cbchouston.org
Oleg Xu Interim Eng Associate Pastor pastoroleg@cbchouston.org	Geraldine Lee KidMin Director geraldinel@cbchouston.org	