

“The Maker of Peace”

New Hope Community Church

May 20th, 2018

Colossians 1:18-23

Life Group Meeting

Colossians 1:18-23

QUESTIONS

A. Jesus, Pre-eminent In God’s Plan for A People (18)

1. He is head of the body, the church
 - God’s unique plan for His church is **diversity**
 - Such a people who could honor God needed perfect **leadership**
 - (1) One wise enough to coordinate all the diversity
 - (2) One capable enough to empower every member
 - (3) One patient enough to overcome all disunity
2. He is the beginning, firstborn from the dead
 - He is **first** among many brothers and sisters
 - He **precedes** us in resurrection and glorification (Ro 8:29)
3. He is first place in everything
 - ‘The Father loves the Son & has given **all** things into His hand’
 - The Father is preparing a **bride** for His Son

B. Jesus, Pre-eminent In God’s Plan for Peace (19,20)

1. It is Jesus plus **nothing** else that accomplishes peace with God (19)
 - The fulness of **grace** and truth is in the Son (Jn 1:14)
 - The fulness of **sinless** perfection is in the Son (Hb 4:15)
 - The fulness of **power** over sin & death is in the Son (Rv 1:18)
 - The fulness of **life** is in the Son (Jn 11:25)
2. It is the **cross** alone that deals with the universal effects of sin (20)
 - A creation under the **curse** has the hope of peace (Ro 8:19-22)
 - (1) Evil spirit authorities have been disarmed of their power (Co 2:15)
 - (2) Unbelieving humanity will bow before the risen Christ (Ph 2:10)
 - (3) Rebellion crushed by the perfect sacrifice → Gn 3:15 is fulfilled
 - Hostile rebels can be presented before God no longer **guilty** (22)
 - (1) Holy = consecrated, different from all others, set apart unto God,
 - (2) Blameless = without blemish, no sin before God
 - (3) Beyond reproach = not convictable before God
3. It is faith in the gospel of Jesus that gives **unshakeable** hope (23)
 - ‘firmly established’ speaks of resting on a firm **foundation**
 - ‘steadfast’ speaks of being seated, or well **fixed** in position
 - ‘not moved away’ speaks of refusing to be **dislodged**

Personal Response Are you at peace with God according to His terms?

God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them . . . we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God .

He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf,
so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. (2 Cor 5:19,21)

1. Read Colossians 1:18-23
2. Jesus said in Matthew 16:18 — “. . . I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it”. Yet throughout the centuries the church has been faced with corruption, division, false teachers. So what has been the secret of survival for the church?
3. In light of verse 18, how is it that people so readily exalt great leaders in churches instead of Jesus? And how is it that leaders allow and even encourage people to do this?
4. Verse 19 speaks of “all the fulness” dwelling in Jesus. Col 2:9 seems to explain this a little more completely. Why is this important as it relates to Jesus being the peace maker between us and God.
5. Verse 20 indicates that the blood of Jesus shed on the cross made peace of things on earth and in heaven. In what sense is this true of things in heaven?
6. How is the cross a fulfillment of Genesis 3:15?
7. Read together out loud v 22. Take a few moments to reflect on and share your response to the fact that the desire of Jesus in His death was to present us to God “holy, blameless, and beyond reproach”.
8. How does verse 23 reinforce the truth that we can add nothing to the work of Christ on the cross to save us.
9. Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 says that God has called us to be ambassadors to the world, giving us the ‘ministry of reconciliation’. What do you think the ‘ministry of reconciliation’ is, and how do we fulfill this role?