

# Colossians Study Week 3

## Colossians 1:21-29

We all have a past, and those of us who believe in Jesus have been given a new life through Christ. Think about your life before following Jesus, and think about the lives of those around you who are far from God. This week

Paul says without Jesus we are His enemies, separated by our evil thoughts and this all leads to evil actions. So where is our hope?

**\*\*\*Read Colossians 1:21-29\*\*\***

### **HOPE**

In verse 21 and 22 Paul speaks on our condition prior to being in relationship with Jesus. Again, he says we are enemies, separated by our evil thoughts and actions. With this sad but true reality in mind... where is our hope? Our hope is in Jesus. Paul says we have been reconciled to Him. This is the truth, not one of us is good enough to save ourselves. We must receive the free gift of God's grace to be made whole. We all have sinned and we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Apart from Jesus, there is no possible way to remove the stain of sin and be forgiven. But with Jesus, we have eternal life.

- **What does reconciled mean to you? Describe your life “Pre” Jesus. Did you realize that apart from Jesus you were enemies of God? Are you able to receive the fact that you are “holy and blameless and without fault” with Jesus?**
  - Read the following verses and discuss how they are related
    - Romans 5:10
    - Ephesians 2:3
    - Romans 3:23-25
    - 1 John 1:8
    - 2 Corinthians 5:18
      - The only way to be free from sin is to trust in Jesus Christ. We must place our trust in the fact it is Jesus alone that forgives sin, makes us right with God, and empowers us to

live like He did! Know this, when God forgives our sins, he wipes them clean. From God's perspective, it's as if we have never sinned, we are made right with Him. No matter what you have done, what sin or evil you have committed, this free gift of grace and forgiveness is available to you!

- Ephesians 2:16
- Romans 7:4
- Ephesians 2:8-9
- Romans 6:23
- 1 Corinthians 15:10
- Romans 5:8
- 1 John 5:1
- Romans 8:1
- Ephesians 3:14-21

### **Read Colossians 1:24-27**

We can be assured of this, we will face pain as we live for Jesus and share the good news of the Gospel. Just because you become a follower of Jesus, does not mean your life will be without trials and suffering. Paul says it is "participating in the sufferings of Christ"... what does that mean? Jesus suffered and so He feels it with us as we suffer sharing the good news. Know this, we can face the pain and suffering that comes our way with great joy because of the importance of the message we carry. The good news of Jesus saves souls and brings healing and restoration and healing to broken lives... There is no more important message.

- **Have you faced suffering while living for Jesus? Have you shared the good news of Jesus with somebody? If not, why not?**
  - Read the following verses and discuss how they relate.
    - Romans 8:16-18
    - 2 Corinthians 1:5
    - Philippians 2:17
    - 1 Peter 4:1-2
    - 1 Peter 4:12-19
    - Philippians 1:29
      - Colossians 1:26-27 reference the false teaching in the church that said spiritual perfection was a secret or hidden plan only a special few. This was in contrast to what the

good news of Jesus was, through his death and resurrection salvation is made available to all! It was a mystery until Jesus showed up and revealed the plan, Christ in you, the hope of glory. For both the Jew and Gentile, Jesus is available for all.

- Romans 16:25-27
- Colossians 1:27
- Matthew 13:11
- Ephesians 1:7
- Romans 8:10

### **Read Colossians 1:28-29**

Notice the word “perfect” or “complete”, it does not mean flawless, it means mature. Paul’s heart was to see Christians mature spiritually and become solid followers of Jesus. In the same manner an athlete trains for competition, we must work hard in the journey of maturity and growth. However, unlike the athlete, we do not fight and work from our own strength. We are filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered to become mature Christ followers. Daily, motivated by love, we must learn and grow.

- **Are you growing? Why/How? If you are not growing, what steps will you take today to ensure you get on the right path? Has your growth been motivated by love? Or by fear, insecurity or pride?**
  - Read the following verses and discuss how they relate.
    - Acts 20:31
    - Matthew 5:48
    - Ephesians 4:13
    - 1 Corinthians 15:10
    - Ephesians 1:19

The Good news of Jesus is for EVERYBODY! As Jesus works in you to mature and grow you, be filled with the Holy Spirit and tell people about Jesus! Let’s GO!!!!