



Sermon Study Guide

October 11, 2015 - Pastor Josh Reasoner

Hope For the Broken

Colossians 1:21-23

THINK & SHARE

Questions to get your group talking

Spend a few minutes discussing the outcome of the Pray & Commit challenge you chose last time you met.

Share about a time in your life when you felt completely “other,” as if you could not connect to the people around you or were so different that they would not understand you?

What does it mean to be spiritually alienated?

“To be lost means to be out of place....When we are lost to God, we are not where we are supposed to be in His world...so lost persons, in Christian terms, are precisely the ones who mistake their own person for God.”

Dallas Willard

STUDY & DISCUSS

Questions that invite you to dig deeper into the week’s material and your own life

A. Read Colossians 1:21-23. Paul uses very descriptive language in these three verses. The verb alienated tells us that we were not only lost but also estranged or broken off from God. How are people who seem morally good still sinners? How can a person who seems morally good still be “hostile in mind” toward God (Col 1:21, ESV)?

B. Pastor Josh defined reconciliation as “to bring back together.” How did Christ’s performance reconcile you, a sinner and enemy, to God? (We call this “preaching the gospel to yourself”—recalling and making personal Jesus’ sacrifice for sins and His resurrection so that we are reminded of our standing before God. So go beyond the basic fact “Jesus died for my sins” to consider and talk about the process of reconciliation the Father and Son worked out, why it was necessary, and how you are personally impacted by what Jesus did.)

C. Jesus presents you to God holy, blameless, and free of accusation (v. 22). That is how God sees you right now in this very moment. Think on that for a moment. How do you react to that? Celebration? Resistance (*No, I’m not quite good enough yet.*)? Disbelief (*How could God EVER see ME that way?*)? What is causing you to react as you do? If you’re not celebrating, what accusations or blame are you still beating yourself up over even though God isn’t?



D. How we see our sin and what we do about it matters immensely in our growth as believers. What do you do when your sin is exposed? How do you react when someone else's sin is exposed? Why are you harder on yourself than you are on another person or vice versa?

E. Colossians 1:23 presents a "big IF." You are reconciled and presented as holy to God "IF you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held in the gospel" (NIV). We cannot lose our salvation once it's secured so why is it important that we persevere in our faith and stand firm in the hope of the gospel?

PRAY & COMMIT Questions for your breakout prayer time and challenges for the rest of your week

A. Does the gospel stir your heart to praise? Even if you aren't the sort of person who gets emotional, what happens in your heart and mind when you consider Christ's work on your behalf? This week pray that God would root the gospel deep into you so that you are fully alive to its wonder and to its impact on your life.

B. This week preach the gospel to yourself daily. (Reviewing Paul's words to you, a believer in Christ, in Colossians 1:21-23 is a good way to do that.) Making it a habit to recall the gospel is part of how we persevere in faith. Otherwise, we tend to neglect or forget that Christ's performance has secured God's grace for us. It's so easy to lose hope when blame and accusations never seem to cease. You may also want to take one of the accusations you struggle with and remind yourself that Christ took that on Himself and gave you His righteousness instead.

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