



Learning, Living, and Giving the Good News of Jesus

Week 4: Separation Solution

- SCRIPTURE TEXT: **Colossians 1:13-23**
- MEMORY VERSE: **Colossians 1: 19-20a**
- (RE)UNION CHAPTER: 8 (Next week chapter 9)
- HOMEWORK: Study Buddy Chat / Sign up for blog updates at Bruxy.com

APPETIZER: The Gospel of Salvation

JESUS IS GOD WITH US, COME TO



SO WE CAN SHARE IN GOD'S LIFE.

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DINE IN: Redemption, Rescue, and Reconciliation

Colossians 1:12-23

We have so much to be thankful for! Through Jesus, God has:

1. Qualified us (v 12)
2. Rescued us (v 13)
3. Transferred us (v 13)
4. Redeemed us (v 14)
5. Forgiven us (v 14)
6. Reconciled us (v 20 & 22)

Colossians 1:15-20 is likely a pre-existing hymn of the early church!

- 15-17 = Christ our Creator
- 18-20 = Christ our Liberator

The cosmos (and all who inhabit it) owes its existence, coherence, and continuance to Christ.
~ Todd D. Still, *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*

TAKE OUT: The Gospel In Chairs

Colossians 2:3

Be encouraged! Your sins are forgiven!
~ Jesus (**Matthew 9:2**)

STUDY BUDDY MESSAGE SUMMARY:

- What do you think about the idea of "sin"? (Or, what do you think is wrong with the world? Are you part of the problem or solution?)
- We all want to be accepted and to belong, but we are at some level afraid that if someone knows everything about us they could never fully accept us. Jesus shows us that God fully knows us AND fully accepts us.
- When Jesus died on the cross, he died praying for the forgiveness of his killers. And when he rose again, he told his disciples to keep preaching the message of forgiveness.
- If Jesus came to show us what God is really like (as we've already talked about), then Jesus gives us the evidence that whatever we do or have done or will do, God forgives us and wants to be close to us.
- For forgiveness to lead to reconciliation and reunion, it not only needs to be offered; it needs to be received. God has done his part. How about you?

NEXT WEEK: SET UP God's Kingdom

Next week we talk about the powerful impact of the good news of the kingdom and the very this-worldly emphasis of the gospel.

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Have you been tracking with the blog posts for this series at **bruxy.com**? Have they been helpful? Unhelpful? Something else? Let Bruxy know!
2. Review Sunday's message. Talk about something that stood out to you as an encouragement, challenge, disagreement, or question.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Colossians 1:12-23**.
 - a. What verse or idea stands out to you?
 - b. Review the six things we have to be thankful for in this passage (see sermon notes). For each one, talk about what it means and why it is "good news".
 - c. Paul contrasts the "domain of darkness" vs the "kingdom of light". What do you think are the recognizable qualities of each?
 - d. The hymn or poem of verses 15-20 has a very "high Christology" (meaning, a very divine view of Jesus). List and discuss the things that point to Christ's divinity in these verses.
 - e. How do you think an ancient Jewish man shedding blood on a Roman cross can achieve peace between us and God? What's going on there? (If possible, draw in other Scripture to support your ideas.)
 - f. The Bible always portrays the gospel as the message of us being reconciled to God and never God needing to be reconciled to us. Why is this distinction important?
 - g. Based on this passage, how would you respond to someone who asked you how they can get to know God?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

4. Use your regular huddle questions. Also pray for your Study Buddies, and for yourselves, that you might continue grow in your understanding of and ability to communicate the gospel.

Quotes

Welcome to part 4 in our series on Learning, Living, & Giving the Good News of Jesus! Today's Message is about how Jesus saves us from sin.

In the first chapter of Paul's epistle to the Colossians, the apostle writes...

We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people.

In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace.

So give joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light.

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.
~ The Apostle Paul (Colossians 1)