

COLOSSIANS 1:21-23

THE CHASE: OUR DESIRE FOR ENOUGH & JESUS' PURSUIT OF US

SCRIPTURE & SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE — MARCH 01

OPEN

1. Have you ever noticed how your friends or coworkers talk about nature of humanity? What do they tend to point to as being wrong in the world or their lives? Where do you think their worldview is compatible with Christianity? Where do you think it's incompatible?

In last week's passage, we looked at what Paul said about Jesus' identity and nature. This week, we're looking at what Paul has to say about our identity and nature—before and after we've been united to Jesus. READ COLOSSIANS 1:15-23 (though we'll focus on verses 21-23).

DISCUSS

2. How does Paul describe fallen human nature apart from Christ in verse 21? Though it's a brief description what do the individual words/phrases contribute to our understanding of sin?
3. Do you find Paul's description of humanity in verse 21 to be true to your experience (of yourself or others)? Why or why not? And even if we are seeking to submit to Scripture as truth, why might it be difficult at times to accept this assessment of humanity apart from Jesus as accurate?
4. God's saving work is expressed through the picture of "reconciliation." What comes to mind when you think about the process of reconciliation between two people? How is the idea of reconciliation different in Scripture from our more common notion?
5. In verse 22, Paul tells us that the sacrificial death of Jesus is the means of our reconciliation to God. Why was the cross necessary? What are ways that you've sought to be reconciled to God apart from Jesus?
6. In this brief passage, Paul gives us a picture of the story—past, present, and future—for every Christian. Why do you think it's important for us to reflect on this total story to persevere in our faith and keep our focus on Jesus?
7. Pastor Curtis described "faith" not as a rejection of reality, but as a declaration of a deeper reality. What is a particular area in your life right now where you're struggling to follow Jesus? How can you start seeing this situation through the lens of the gospel?

PRAY

Praise God for the complete forgiveness you have because of the saving work of Jesus on the cross. Confess any ways in which you're tempted to minimize your sin (either in the past or present). Pray for strength to see yourselves in light of what God has revealed through Scripture. Ask for the Spirit's help to know how to live in light of the the "deeper reality" of the gospel.