

Life in the Word

Cornerstone Sermon-based Life Group Lesson



Sermon Series: **Colossians**

Sermon Title: **Christ is First to Provide Peace With God**

Scripture Passage: **Colossians 1:21-23**

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

1. God's ultimate plan for the universe is to reconcile all things to Himself through Jesus Christ. Because of the fall of Adam and Eve, you and I live on a cursed earth in a cursed universe. Both are under the influence of Satan who is the "god of this world" (2 Cor. 4:4) and "the prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2). But after the events of the Tribulation, at the culmination of unprecedented destruction and chaos, Christ returns and sets up the glorious Kingdom of God when He will make everything new. Everything fallen thing will be reconciled back to God, including fallen man, fallen angels, and fallen creation.

Study Isaiah 11:6-9 and 65:25. What dramatic changes will take place in the animal world?

Next, study Isaiah 24:23; 30:26 and 60:19-20. What dramatic changes will take place in the earth and the solar system?

2. What aspect of "new things" are you most looking forward to when "all things are made new and reconciled to God?"

Observation *Discovering the context*

3. Fallen human beings who do not repent and fallen angels will be reconciled to God in the sense that they will be reconciled to Him for final judgment. According to Revelation 20:10-15, what takes place at this moment of "reconciling?"

4. Colossians 1:20b teaches us that peace with God comes through the blood of Jesus at the cross. His was a violent death, but according to John 19:34 did Jesus bleed to death? Did any man take His life? Was He a helpless victim or was He in charge of His sacrifice on the cross?

5. Jesus' blood was not "magical" or "mystical" in that there was nothing in His blood that saves us. It was physical blood, just like yours and mine, and had no inherent saving power. The blood of Jesus is applied to the believer in a symbolic sense. According to John 19:30, it was what reconciled saved sinners to God?

6. According to Paul in Colossians 1:22, God's goal in the reconciliation of believers to present us before our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in what three aspects?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

Interpretation Discovering the meaning

7. Study Colossians 1:23 carefully: *"If indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation^[a] under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister."*

Some interpret this passage to prove that Christians can forfeit their salvation if they do not "continue in the faith." Is this interpretation true or false? How would you stand upon God's Word to defend your position? (Note: This will take a little digging in the scriptures, but we are called to know our Bibles and always be ready to answer for the hope that lies in us. So, dig in this week!)

Core Truths Discovering Biblical truth

In your own words, share at least one core truth God has shown you in this week's study and why it is timely or significant for you.

Practice Makes Progress Putting knowledge into practice

What action is the Lord prompting you to take this week as a result of being in His Word?

Worth Memorizing

Scripture: *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.^[a] The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.* 2 Corinthians 5:17

Prayer Time

How can your Life Group pray for you this week?

Praise Time

How has God blessed you and answered prayer this week?