



SERMON

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

WEEK 4: Colossians 1:21-23

- 1) Begin your time by briefly praying and asking the Holy Spirit to help you as you discuss and study.
- 2) Now, read Colossians 1:21-23 together.
- 3) What stuck out to you as you read? Was there anything that you didn't understand? Discuss.
- 4) Paul begins this section of Scripture by talking about who we once were apart from Christ. He says three things about us: 1) We were "alienated" from God, 2) Our minds were "Hostile" towards God, and 3) We were doing "evil deeds." Take a few minutes to talk about who you were before you came to know Jesus. Which one of these three attributes best described your life before Christ was your Lord? What's been the biggest difference that Jesus has made in your life?
- 5) In verse 22, Paul talks about what Jesus' death has done for us. He has reconciled us to God, in order to "present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him." In Jesus, God views us as holy, and blameless, and above reproach. How does this make you feel? Is it easy or hard for you to believe God really views you this way?
- 6) Verse 23, presents a requirement for us who are believers. Everything in verse 22 is true of us "if we continue in the faith." This has often been called the "perseverance of the saints" and it's a mysterious truth. On one hand, Christians are secure in the father's hand and their salvation cannot be taken away (John 10:28-29). And on the other hand, believers are encouraged to keep pursuing Jesus and persevering in their faith (Philippians 2:12-13).

Douglas Moo describes it this way, "God does, indeed, by his grace and through his Spirit, work to preserve his people so that they will be vindicated in the judgment; but, at the same time, God's people are responsible to persevere in their faith if they expect to see that vindication." ¹

So, how are you working out your salvation? What practices / experiences / people draw you close to Jesus? What habits / situations / people seem to pull you away from Jesus?

- 7) End your time in prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to help apply to your life what you've been learning and discussing.

¹ Douglas J. Moo, [The Letters to the Colossians and to Philemon](#), The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 2008), 144.