

Week Three: The One We Proclaim

OPENING:

- Have someone in your group tell what they were like before they met Jesus and how he transformed them. (3-5 minute version!)
- Re-read Colossians 1:15-20. What strikes you most about the Son from this passage?

STUDY:

- Read Colossians 1:21-29.
- How does Paul describe the Colossians before and after they put their faith in Christ (vs 21-22).
- Re-read verse 22, putting yourself in the picture painted here of the throne room of God the Father. What thoughts and emotions arise as you picture the scene?
- How does Paul say the Colossians should respond to what Christ has done for them (vs 23)? How does the throne room scene motivate you to respond likewise?
- In verses 24-29, list all the things we learn about Paul. What is his main goal? (hint: see vs 28). What motivates him to do what he is doing?
- What is “the mystery” in verses 26 and 27, and what does it mean for the Colossians? for us?
- In verses 28-29, we see how Paul’s zeal leads to fervent action. In what ways does “Christ in you” motivate you to action?

PRAY:

- Spend time thanking God for the gift of being able to stand before our judge and maker free from accusation (vs 23). Then ask the Lord to motivate you (individually and as a group) to Paul-like response/ action (vs 28-29)!

Colossians 1:21-29

21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 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— 23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.*

Paul’s Labor for the Church

24 Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord’s people. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

28 He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. 29 To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

Footnotes

* Colossians 1:21 Or minds, as shown by