*LIFEgroups*

 EQUATIONS Week 3

 Jesus, The Reconcilier

 Colossians 1:19-23

**Context**

Colossians gives us a concise, but comprehensive view of who Jesus is. And with this, an understanding of how the truth of who He is can profoundly impact our personal lives. This New Testament book shows us that he’s the supreme factor in every equation of life.

It’s always helpful to read an entire book of scripture before digging into each chapter and verse. If you haven’t yet, it would be good to read all of Colossians before beginning this week’s study. You will definitely want to read the first twenty-three verses of chapter one.

**Questions for Study**

1. Reflect back over your own life. Have you ever had a relationship that was broken because of misunderstanding, wrongful action of one person toward another, or some other circumstance? Describe what this did to you. If there was a restoration of that same relationship, what was it that brought reconciliation between yourself and that individual?
2. Paul describes our salvation through Christ with three words in the first twenty-three verses of chapter one. The first word, “rescued”, is used in verse 13. The second word, “redemption”, is used in verse 14. The third word, “reconcile” is used in verse 20 and again in verse 22. Write down the definition of each word.
3. How does the truth of Christ’s deity, which Paul taught in verses 15-19, impact the level to which we’re reconciled to God? Asking the same question another way… How does the truth that Jesus Christ is God impact his ability to reconcile us? (Note the connection between verse 19 and verse 20.)
4. In verse 22 Paul writes, “…he [God] has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death.” What truth about Jesus Christ does this statement point to? Why is this essential to Christ’s ability to reconcile us to God?
5. What does Paul say about us in this week’s passage (Colossians 1:19-23) that shows our need to be reconciled to God?
6. Verse 21 provides the answer to the above question. It gives us a very intense description of any person before their trust in Jesus Christ for their salvation. Take time to write down what each word says about a person’s relationship to God apart from Christ.
7. The description Paul gives in verse 21 is past tense for the Colossians. Why is it good to remind ourselves of what we were before Christ? What can happen if we forget? A parable (story) Christ told in Luke 18:9-14 about two men is a clue to answering this question.
8. What’s the result of Christ reconciling us to God? It’s quite a contrast to what we were. How can this impact our level of peace and joy?