

Lesson 9: Reconciliation and Hope

Scripture Song: Rejoice always – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Philippians 4:6

A. Reconciled to God

1. Colossians 1:19-20 What does it mean to be reconciled to God?
2. What was our condition before we were reconciled to God? Colossians 1:21
3. What is the result in our lives when we are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ? Colossians 1:22
4. What part are we called to play in this process of reconciliation? Colossians 1:23, 2 Peter 3:18
5. How is this growth in grace possible? Galatians 2:20, Romans 8:1-11, 2 Corinthians 5:17-20, etc.
6. What did your life look like before you were reconciled to God? How did God rescue you?

B. Experiencing suffering as a follower of Christ

1. Colossians 1:24-25 What suffering was the Apostle Paul experiencing while writing this inspired letter to Christians in Colossae? (Colossians 4:3, Acts 28:16)
2. How did God work good during this time of suffering for the Apostle Paul? Acts 28:30-31, 2 Timothy 2:8-10, Romans 8:28, etc.
3. Share a time you suffered as a follower of Jesus. How did God work good through this time of suffering?

C. The mystery of God revealed

1. Colossians 1:26 What is the mystery the Apostle Paul is referring to here? (see v.27, 2 Corinthians 5:21)
2. How does the Apostle Paul's letter to Christians in Ephesus help us to understand this mystery? Ephesians 1:7-10, 3:1-7
3. When did you first come to understand this mystery of God?
4. How have you grown in your awareness of the precious gift of Christ in you, the hope of glory?

D. The power of the Gospel

1. Colossians 1:28 What was the Apostle Paul's goal in sharing the mystery of God with others?
2. What does it mean to be "perfect in Christ"?
3. Colossians 1:29 How did the Apostle Paul recognize this sacred work would be accomplished?
4. Share an example from the New Testament of God working powerfully through someone's witness for Christ.
5. Share a time you saw God working powerfully through you to share the message of His immeasurable, unending love.