



November 17-18
“This Changes Everything”
Colossians 1:21-23

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 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 under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

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1. What strikes you as you read the text?
 2. People often say things like, “I’m a good person, I haven’t...” What is wrong with this kind of thinking? What alternative does Christ provide?
 3. Compare the description of humanity’s brokenness in the first line, with God’s work in the second line. Compare and contrast humanity’s problem with God’s cure.
 4. The third line of the passage could be understood as “[since] you continue in the faith...” What does it look like to continue “in the faith?” Can you think of practical examples of what it looks like to not shift from the Gospel?
 5. How does seeing brokenness and God’s grace together help you appreciate the depth of both? What attitudes does this produce in our lives?
 6. Do you have a sense of God’s invitation to you in this season?



November 24-25
“This Changes Everything”
Colossians 1:24 – 2:5

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me. For I want you to know how great a struggle I have for you and for those at Laodicea and for all who have not seen me face to face, that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ.

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1. What strikes you as you read the text?
 2. In the first line, Paul says he rejoices in his sufferings. What reason does he give for his perspective? How would this same perspective change the way we think about suffering?
 3. Paul describes the mystery of the Gospel in line five as “Christ in you, the hope of glory.” What do you think he’s talking about here?
 4. Some have argued that lines six and seven are a description of what it looks like to live on mission. What would it look like to practically pursue these steps in our lives?
 5. Do you have a sense of God’s invitation to you in this season?