

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing our series on Inspired Letters from Prison. Today's topic from Colossians: RECONCILIATION AND HOPE.

**1) Reconciled to God**

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

**2) Experiencing suffering as a follower of Christ**

- a. 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)
- b. 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.
- c. Share a time you suffered as a follower of Jesus. How did God work good through this time of suffering?

**3) The mystery of God revealed**

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

**4) The power of the Gospel**

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

