

We Have An Anchor!

Lesson 3: Seeking Reconciliation Through Jesus Christ



Discovering God's Word

Bible Study Series

We Have An Anchor!

Lesson 3: Seeking Reconciliation Through Jesus Christ

Learn why you need to be reconciled to God, how to be reconciled to God, and the results of reconciliation so that you can be properly anchored

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Discovering God's Word Bible Study Series

Study Number: DGW150

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About the author: My name is Eric Krieg. I am a disciple of Jesus, a Bible student, a truth seeker, and an evangelist. My interest is in using the Bible as my only guide in my faith. My desire is to help others understand the message of the Bible and pursue true, New Testament Christianity.

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My plea: It is my hope and prayer that you are searching for the truth that is contained in God's word, the Bible. My desire is to help you understand and obey these truths God has revealed in the pages of His word. It is to that end that I write this material. Please observe all of the Scripture references and evaluate whether the conclusions I have drawn are in harmony with God's word. If they are, I ask that you make honest application of those truths to your life and obey God's instructions.

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We Have an Anchor!

Seeking Reconciliation Through Jesus Christ

We all face many things that try to pull us away from God in this life and the eternal salvation that He offers. We have already seen that there are many storms that try and sweep us away quickly through discouragement, feeling overwhelmed, fear, worry/anxiety, depression, etc. Then, we have seen that there are also forces at work to gradually move us away from God through a constant current.

Sadly, we have all gotten caught up in one of these and found ourselves away from God (Romans 3:23). Perhaps we are “lost at sea.” Perhaps we are drowning. Perhaps we have no idea which way we need to go in order to make it back to shore. Or, perhaps we have just begun drifting and can see the shore, but just need some guidance to make it back.

Whatever the case is, anyone who is not being faithful to the Lord has no help from the anchor for the soul. As we have seen, Hebrews 6:19 identifies hope as an “anchor for the soul, both sure and steadfast.” But, as we will see in this lesson, there is no hope outside of Jesus Christ. Just listen to Colossians 1:19-29. This will be the main text for this third lesson of our study.

“For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth

or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

“I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.”

In this third lesson, we want to consider some basic lessons from this text concerning the reality of living for our sins, why we need to be reconciled to God, how we can find reconciliation, and the results of being reconciled to God. Yes, we have to make very careful evaluation of ourselves to know whether we are in fellowship with God or separated from Him before we can drop our anchors. For, if we are not in fellowship with God, we have no true hope to hold on to. Instead, we are spiritually lost and headed for certain destruction!

Wicked Works Make Us Enemies Of God

It is not the storms of life that separate us from God. Nor is it the very existence of a current that is trying to pull us away from Him. Instead, it is

the sin that these things tempt us to commit. So, we must recognize that wicked works make us enemies of God.

Alienated from God by sin

Listen to how James describes temptation in James 1:14-15. “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”

Whether through the storms of life or the currents, we face temptation whenever our physical desires entice us to respond in a way that goes against the instructions of God. Then, we commit sin whenever we give in to those desires and fulfill them in a way that does violate God’s laws. And, we should notice that the outcome of such sinful activity is not harmless. Recognize that the end result of committing sin is death.

But, this death is not of a physical nature. As we have already considered, physical death has been in the world ever since Adam and Eve sinned against God and were cast out of the Garden of Eden. Yet, there is a type of death that is even greater than physical death. This is spiritual death.

Spiritual death is separation from God – and is the result whenever we sin against God. For instance, Colossians 1:21 demonstrates this to be so. Paul says, “And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled.” Notice first that the end result is alienation from God and being His enemies. This is to be cut off from all fellowship with Him, separated from all the spiritual blessings that He offers. This is how we can be dead while we still live (see 1 Timothy 5:6) – dead spiritually while alive physically.

Then, notice *why* Paul said these people were alienated from and enemies of God. It was because of their minds through “wicked works.” First, recognize that everything we do contrary to the will of God begins in the mind. Romans 8:5-8 demonstrates this to be true. “For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is

death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”

So, if our minds (hearts) are focused on the things of this world, we will find ourselves doing wicked things. This is because our actions stem from our hearts/minds. Jesus said, “For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies” (Matthew 15:19). But, notice that these are “wicked works.” They are not things that have God’s approval in any way. In fact, sin is anything that violates the laws of God. There are no such things as “big sins” and “little sins.” All sin is “wicked” in God’s sight and causes us to be separated from God.

But, why does our sin separate/alienate us from God? 1 John 1:5-7 gives us the answer. “This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”

God is holy (Revelation 4:8). He is completely separated from everything that is wicked and devoted to everything that is good. The picture in 1 John 1:5 is that He is “light” and completely separated from darkness. So, it is simply impossible for us to live our lives for the sinful ways of darkness and still expect to be in fellowship with God!

What it means to be enemies of God

Not only does our sin alienate us from God, but you should observe that it also makes us the “enemies” of God. This is because the ways we have chosen to live our lives are opposed to the ways of God. Rather than following God as our Father, we have chosen to follow the devil, doing his desires (see John 8:44).

James 4:4 makes it perfectly clear. “Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God?”

Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.” As I have mentioned already, the ways of this world are contrary to the ways of God. 1 John 2:15-17 commands, “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

Now, I want you to consider what it means to be enemies of God, having chosen to do the things that are in direct opposition to His will. The principle that we must recognize is that God will show vengeance on those who are His enemies. For instance, Deuteronomy 32:41 records God as saying, “If I whet My glittering sword, And My hand takes hold on judgment, I will render vengeance to My enemies, And repay those who hate Me.” Similarly, Hebrews 10:30-31 says, “For we know Him who said, ‘Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,’ says the Lord. And again, ‘The Lord will judge His people.’ It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”

This vengeance of God can be illustrated in the rebellion of Korah in Numbers 16. He and some others from the Israelites rose up against Moses and Aaron, saying that they had taken too much on themselves and exalted themselves. However, by rejecting the authority of Moses and Aaron, these men were rejecting the Lord (who gave them their authority, see Numbers 16:11). Therefore, the Lord caused a “new thing” to happen and punish them. Numbers 16:31-33 says, “Now it came to pass, as he finished speaking these words, that the ground split apart under them, and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men of Korah, with all their goods. So they and all those with them went down alive into the pit; the earth closed over them, and they perished from among the assembly.” Then, whenever the congregation of Israel complained the next day that Moses and Aaron had killed some from Israel, the Lord’s wrath burned against them and brought a plague against the people that caused 14,700 more people died.

Certainly this is just one example that demonstrates that no one should ever desire to be or remain enemies of God. It *never* ends well for those who are His enemies. They never end up being victorious against God – not even if He tolerates their wickedness for a short time. And, we must recognize that God continues to promise His vengeance to those who are His enemies today, even if He allows them to practice their wickedness during their earthly lives. For instance, whenever Jesus Christ returns with His mighty angels, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 says, “in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”

Enemies Of God Have No Hope

There is absolutely no true hope for those who are enemies of God. Unfortunately, many people have become so involved in their wicked works or have believed enough lies that they either do not care that they are enemies of God or have a false hope. Yet, God will certainly show His vengeance on all of His enemies one Day. Therefore, those who are separated from God need to recognize that they have no anchor to help them throughout the storms of life or to help them battle the currents!

No hope on this earth

Hope is what helps us to get through the difficult times in life. But, those who have allowed sin to separate themselves from God do not have a true hope while they are living on this earth (although many have been deceived and have a false hope).

There is, of course, little hope that pertains to anything about life on this earth. Whenever you are standing by the casket of a dear loved one, where can you possibly find any kind of comfort if you do not have God in your life? Whenever you are struggling with illness or lying in bed waiting to go into the

operating room for a serious surgery, where can you possibly find peace if you do not have God in your life? Whenever you are facing serious family struggles, where you can possibly find joy if you do not have God in your life? Whenever you are out of work, where do you possibly find any assurance of a next meal if you do not have God in your life?

Of course, these are just samples. But, the overall question is this: How can you possibly bear the loads of life without the help of God? Yet, those who are living in sin are attempting to navigate the stormy waters of life by themselves. It is no wonder, then, why so many people in this life suffer from depression and anxiety, commit suicide, and have no real joy while they live on this earth!

Those who are separated from God by wicked works have no access to the spiritual blessings that God provides while people live on this earth. It is only through Jesus that we can experience the “hope of the gospel” (Colossians 1:23). For, the apostle Paul described the situation the Gentiles were in without Jesus Christ by saying that they were “without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12).

Without God in this world means that we have no source of true joy in our lives. It means that we have no promise of having our prayers answered. It means that we have no assurance that God will give us the things we need to sustain our earthly lives. It means that we have no peace with God while we live. And, all of this means that there is no hope for overcoming the things that we experience and living with true joy!

No hope beyond this earth

Then, not only do people who are separated from God have no hope during their earthly lives regarding these spiritual blessings, but they also have no hope of anything good beyond their physical lives. The fact is that those who are living in their sins are experiencing the best that they will ever experience. But, these pleasures are passing. They simply will not last.

Then, after living a life of sin and still experiencing the sorrows and pains of this earthly life, these will experience the eternal consequences of their sin. This is eternal spiritual death (separation from God) in Hell fire. On the Day when Jesus Christ returns and judges all people, Jesus says that He will tell those who did not live for Him, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels” (Matthew 25:41). These “will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life” (Matthew 25:46).

Listen to Revelation 21:8. “But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.” So, after dealing with the sorrows of death, disease, accidents, lost relationships, etc. while living on this earth, the punishment that is awaiting those who are enemies of God is an eternity in a place called Hell. This place is properly identified as being “the second death” because it is eternal separation from God. And, it is a place that is described as being a terrible punishment.

It is a place that is depicted by a lake that is burning with fire and brimstone. There will be great pain, anguish, and weeping (see Matthew 25:30; Romans 2:6-11). It will be worse than physical mutilation (Mark 9:42-48). And, the fires and destruction of this place are never ending (Mark 9:42-48). Then, the only ones who will be with you in this place are the others who have died in their sins, the devil, and the devil’s angels (see Matthew 25:41 and Revelation 21:8). God will not be there to offer you any kind of comfort whatsoever (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9).

This is the only real future “hope” that those who are enemies of God have after their earthly lives are over: Unimaginable torment and suffering. Remember, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9 has promised us that God will show His vengeance toward those who do not know or obey Him!

Reconciliation Only Possible Through Jesus Christ

Now, it has been very important for us to consider the hopelessness of those who are separated from God, who are lost and drifting at sea. We need to recognize the reality of our lives on this earth without God. For, it is only when we realize our true situations while we are living in sin that we will look for the true answer that will provide us with true hope. This answer is Jesus Christ. As we struggle through the sinful ways of our lives, we must recognize that Jesus Christ provides the one and only way back to God. He is like a lighthouse along the shore that beams its light to show us the way. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

No reconciliation without Jesus

As we think about the reality of being lost at sea, we must recognize that we do not have the strength to make it back to shore by ourselves. Once we have sinned, we cannot do anything to earn our own salvation. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Separation from God (spiritual death) is what we have all earned by our sins. And, there is no life except through Jesus Christ. It does not matter how many good things we may do the rest of our lives. Even if we never committed any sins for the rest of our lives, we cannot be saved by ourselves.

Instead, the opportunity to be saved is only found through Jesus Christ. For, Romans 6:23 continues and says that God has provided the "gift" of eternal life in Jesus Christ. Listen to Ephesians 2:1-10.

"And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the

mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."

The blood of Jesus

It is only through Jesus Christ that we can be reconciled to God. Listen to Colossians 1:19-22 again. "For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight."

God loved us so much that He did not want us to be hopeless during our lives on this earth or spend eternity in Hell fire. So, He sent His only begotten Son (Jesus Christ) into the world to live a sinless life, suffer, and die on the cross. Then, Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day – forever conquering the enemy of death.

Now, we can be reconciled to God. To be "reconciled" is to be brought back together. As we have already considered, there was nothing that we could possibly have offered to God that would have been sufficient to bring us back together with God. It was only the sacrifice that God offered on our behalves that made this reconciliation possible!

We read about this reconciliation through His "word of reconciliation" (the gospel of Jesus Christ). 2 Corinthians 5:18-19 says, "Now all things are of

God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”

Through the blood of Jesus Christ, the sins that had separated us from God can be completely washed away. And, now, listen to Romans 5:6-11. As we read this passage, think about yourself lost in sin, an enemy of God. Think about being lost at sea and unable to find your way to shore. Think about the fact that you would surely drown – except for Jesus Christ!

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.”

Though we were enemies of God, we can be reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. And, also notice that this passage demonstrates that we are “justified” (made just as if we had never committed sin) through Jesus Christ, saved from experiencing the wrath of God that would be shown toward His enemies, and saved by the life of Jesus. Now, we have the opportunity to “rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation”!

The plan of salvation

So, God offers each and every person today the opportunity through Jesus Christ to be reconciled to Him. But, we must recognize that God does not force us to be saved. We must grab hold of the lifeline that God has thrown to us through Jesus Christ!

Listen to more from 2 Corinthians 5. “Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (verses 20-21). Then, chapter 6 picks up the thought, urging us to take this “lifeline” immediately. “We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: ‘In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (6:1-2).

We must do our parts to be reconciled to God by obeying God’s plan of salvation that is outlined in the pages of the gospel’s message. This message of the gospel is God’s power to salvation (Romans 1:16). But, what is it that God requires of those who are lost in sin in order to be reconciled to Him?

For those who have never become Christians and received the forgiveness of their sins, God requires the following. (1) You must hear His word. “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17). Hearing God’s message and instructions, necessarily, comes before an individual can believe and obey them (Acts 18:8)!

(2) You must believe. Faith/belief in God and Christ is essential for salvation. Jesus said, “Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins” (John 8:24). However, the Bible also teaches that faith without works of obedience will not save us (James 2:14-26)!

(3) Repent of your sins. Jesus said, “unless you repent you will all likewise perish” (Luke 13:3). God now “commands all men everywhere to repent” (Acts 17:30). Repentance involves a change in mindset regarding past sin (to view past sin with abhorrence and to determine to live differently in the future).

(4) Confess Christ. Romans 10:9-10 says, “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth

confession is made unto salvation.” The confession that is commanded in this passage is *not* a confession of your sins; but, the confession of the Lord Jesus with your mouth. A good example of this confession is found in Acts 8:37 when the man of Ethiopia (just prior to being baptized) said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

(5) Be immersed in water (baptized). Jesus said, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but, he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:16). Baptism is necessary for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16). Paul wrote that you are “baptized into Christ” (Galatians 3:27). That is, baptism brings you into union with Jesus Christ. Peter wrote that baptism “now saves us” – just as water saved Noah and his family (1 Peter 3:20-21). Clearly, the Bible teaches that baptism is necessary for salvation. Baptism is the point at which an individual becomes a Christian and is forgiven of his/her sins. It is at this point that the sinner is washed, justified, and sanctified through the blood of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Acts 18:8; Acts 22:16)! It is also important to understand that the Bible teaches the action involved in being baptized is immersion in water (not sprinkling or pouring – and not Holy Spirit baptism). In fact, baptism is described as being a “burial” in Romans 6:3-4 and Colossians 2:12. Therefore, that old man of sin we put to death is buried with Christ in baptism and we are raised to walk in newness of life!

(6) Remain faithful. When you hear God’s word, believe, repent of your sins, confess Christ, and are immersed in water for the forgiveness of your sins, you become a Christian – and are added to Christ’s church (Acts 2:41, 47)! However, this does not mean that you are “once saved, always saved”! Instead, the Bible teaches that you must be faithful to the Lord unto death in order to receive the crown of life (the eternal reward in Heaven, Revelation 2:10).

Then, if you have become a Christian at some point in your life, but have drifted away from God or gotten caught up in the storms of life again, you must consider what you need to do in order to come back to Him. The Bible teaches that you must repent of your sins, confess your sins to God, and ask Him for forgiveness. For instance, whenever a man named Simon had become a Christian (by doing the things

previously discussed) and then committed sin, he was told, “Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you” (Acts 8:22). 1 John 1:9 says, “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Then, if we have sinned in a public way so that others are aware of our sin, we should do the best that we can to confess our sins to those who are knowledgeable of them and be reconciled to those we have harmed (see James 5:16 and Matthew 5:23-24).

The Blessings Of Reconciliation Through Jesus Christ

Through Jesus Christ we can be saved from the devastating consequences of our sins! If we will be obedient to His commandments that are given in the pages of the New Testament, we can be reconciled to God through Him. Now, having been brought safely to shore through Jesus Christ, we can put our anchors down as we continue to endure the storms of life and the dangers of drifting. As we do, we should be encouraged to recognize the blessings of being reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.

Peace with God

Through Jesus Christ, God has made reconciliation possible and has “made peace through the blood” of Jesus’ cross (Colossians 1:20). So, through Jesus, you can go from being the enemy of God to having peace with God. Romans 5:1-2 says, “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” And, the Scriptures teach that we cannot measure the value of this peace when it comes to surviving the storms of this life. For instance, Philippians 4:6-7 says, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to

God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” Now that you have peace with God, you do have access to all the spiritual blessings in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 1:3) and He has promised to hear your prayers – and says that your prayers are powerful (James 5:16)!

Holiness

Through the blood of Jesus Christ, God will “present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight” (Colossians 1:22). Whenever you are living obedient to God and have been reconciled to Him through Jesus Christ, God no longer sees your past sins that made you His enemy (Hebrews 8:12). Instead, through Jesus Christ, you have been made holy – just like God is holy. Now, you can enjoy full fellowship with God since you are walking in the light of His holiness. But, this will only be the case “if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard” (Colossians 1:23). So, if you allow the storms and currents of life to move you away from God again, you will not continue to be holy in God’s sight. Instead, you must be steadfast in following the faith of the gospel and strive to be holy as God is holy in everything that you do, think, and say (see 1 Peter 1:13-16)! We must get rid of all the sin in our lives and live for Him completely!

The hope of glory

Now that you have peace with God and are holy in His sight through the blood of Jesus Christ, you have tremendous hope. This hope is so great that the apostle Paul could even rejoice in his earthly sufferings (Colossians 1:24). Through God’s salvation (which was once a mystery) that has now been revealed in the pages of the New Testament, God has made known “what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27). If you will allow Jesus Christ to live in you through the word of God by doing what He teaches and following His perfect example, you can live with the hope of glory in Heaven for all eternity! Although you will still suffer while you live on this earth,

reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ has produced a hope of living in a place that is free from all pain, suffering, tears, and death (Revelation 21:4)!

Conclusion

The storms are pounding against us, trying to destroy us. The currents are trying to pull us away from God. And, they have been successful against us in the past – for, we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). We were all hopelessly lost. But, through Jesus Christ, we can all be reconciled to God, have peace with God, be holy and blameless in His sight, and have the hope of glory. But, this is only the result if we will be obedient to God and remain steadfast to Him! Yes, He will rescue and save us from the ocean of sin – if we let Him!

Study Questions

Have you ever gotten caught up in the storms of life or the current so as to sin against God?

1. Wicked Works Make Us Enemies Of God

How do we become alienated from God? What does it mean to be alienated from God?

What does it mean to be an enemy of God?

2. Enemies Of God Have No Hope

How do enemies of God have no hope on this earth?

How will you be holy through Jesus Christ?

How will you have the hope of glory through Jesus Christ?

How do enemies of God have no hope beyond this earth?

3. Reconciliation Only Possible Through Jesus Christ

Is reconciliation possible without Jesus? Why or why not?

How is the blood of Jesus connected with your reconciliation? What does it mean to be reconciled?

What does God require you to do in order to be reconciled to Him?

4. The Blessings Of Reconciliation Through Jesus Christ

How will you have peace with God through Jesus Christ?