

Focused on Christ

Colossians 1:15-23

Focus

Do you ever struggle with distraction?
If so, what do you do to help you be less distracted?
When is it especially important to focus?
 When tired or troubled
 Or when super happy and successful
What should be our central focus in life?

A letter to Christians in Colossae

A Christian church that was losing its focus on faith in Christ
It seems that they were also 'focusing' on...
 Observing special foods and days
 Trying to connect with spiritual beings
 Joining in special spiritual practices

A letter for us as well

People who may be losing our focus on faith in Christ
We may also be 'focusing' on...
 Hard work and accomplishments
 Being in control, or right, or fulfilled
 Seeking relationships or approval
 Seeking pleasure and happiness
 Just plodding forward

Colossians 1:15-20

15-17: Jesus is Supreme over all creation

He is over everything, see and unseen
He makes the universe a symphony rather than a cacophony: chaotic, conflicting, decaying noise

18-20: Jesus is Supreme over all re-creation (redemption)

Only in Christ can we know and experience all who God is
The Church is where Christ is working today

The Big Idea part 1

**The Gospel in Jesus Christ
is the only truly good news,
and it is amazingly good!**

Christ is the source, purpose, sustainer, and destination of creation and re-creation

Colossians 1:21-23

21-23: Jesus is Supreme over all creation

He is over everything, see and unseen
He makes the universe a symphony rather than a cacophony: chaotic, conflicting,
decaying noise

The Big Idea part 1

**And it is good news for us
only if we continue to have faith in Christ**

Focus

If we focus on everything, we're focused on nothing
You can't look at it all at once!



When we trust in Christ AND money, or people's approval, or self approval, or success, or happiness, or control, or security, or...

we aren't trusting in the Gospel in Jesus Christ

We are reconciled to God in Christ...

if we focus on Christ

"if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel."

Where does your heart go when in stress & trouble?

Application

Focus our faith on Christ

He is supreme in Creation & Re-creation

"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name (or idea, or power, or person, or self, or hope, or ...) under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12

There is no other hope

Once

And forever

The tragedy of an unlatched seatbelt

Proclaim the good news in Christ

This message is for everyone!

Nothing else and no one else in all creation can do what Jesus does for those who trust in Him

Take us from cacophony (chaotic, conflicting, decaying noise) to symphony (beautiful diverse unity)

Into growing fellowship and peace with God and others and self and creation

Reflection Questions for later today or this week...

1. What is it about the Good News in Jesus Christ that makes it amazingly good news?
2. What situations or temptations threaten to take your focus off of the Good News in Jesus Christ?
3. Where does your heart go in stress and trouble?
4. Have you put your faith in the Gospel of Jesus Christ? If not, what is holding you back?
5. What helps you and those around you continue in faith in this Good News in Jesus Christ?
6. Who needs to hear and understand and put their faith in this amazingly good news? What might you be able to do that is helpful for their journey?