



KING FOREVER

Week 3 | Knowing the King

| KEY THOUGHTS

- By nature, we as humans are alienated from God because of our sin; and sometimes when this is pointed out to us, we become hostile. **This is the natural spiritual condition of everyone from birth.**
- God provides the perfect antidote for this: **reconciliation.**
- God fulfilled His part in this perfectly, as only He could do. **Through Christ's physical suffering, death, and resurrection, He presents believers to God as...**
 - **Holy** - set apart for God; identified not by our sin, but as His own dear child
 - **Blameless** - bearing no blame for our sin, no stain on our record
 - **Above reproach** - free of accusation, a clean "rap sheet"
- This is a total reversal of our natural state; **apart from Christ, we are unholy, blamable, bearing the reproach of our sin.**
- This state of reconciliation is **not dependent upon our continuing efforts, but upon our dependence upon Christ.**
- Most lies contain a kernel of truth, which is then re-shaped into a lie. **When we immerse ourselves in God's truth, we'll be equipped to recognize a lie when we hear it.**
- False teaching is cruel, robbing us of the joy and freedom God wants to give us through Christ. **When we shine the light of His truth on our world, we'll see it as it really is.**

| SCRIPTURE

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² 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, ²³ 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.

²⁴ 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, ²⁵ 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, ²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷ 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. ²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

2 ¹ 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, ² 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, ³ in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. ⁴ I say this in order that no one may delude you with plausible arguments. ⁵ 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.

Colossians 1:21-2:5 (ESV)

²¹ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians 5:21-27 (ESV)

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.

Matthew 7:15 (ESV)

¹³ For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. ¹⁵ So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (ESV)

For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

Matthew 24:24 (ESV)

| PRACTICAL

- Resist running down the rabbit hole of investigating all the lies; rather, spend your time and energies investigating God's truth.
- The Scriptures were written mostly by average, everyday people who wrote for average, everyday people. The Holy Spirit who guided them as they wrote is the same indwelling Holy Spirit who gives us understanding and discernment.
- Read the book of Colossians this week, asking the Spirit to reveal His truth, and asking yourself what these chapters tell us about Jesus.
- Pray for Lighthouse Community this week, asking for protection from false teachings, for the Holy Spirit to guide our pastors and elders, and praying for one another.

| REFLECT

- Because Jesus's sacrifice covers *all* of my sin, and my redemption was won by Christ and is held by Christ, nothing I can do can cause me to lose my salvation.
- Knowing this, I can hold fast to the truth, stable and steadfast.
- When Jesus was tempted, He quoted Scripture to resist the devil's lies. I have that same resource at my disposal! Do I make use of it?
- All who are in Christ are safe in Him, but not all who seem to be His really are. Do I base my claim of salvation on a prayer I once said or a philosophy I believe, but show no evidence of that in my attitudes and habits?
- Does my life proclaim the truth of the gospel to the world around me?

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