



Week 15: Colossians 2:13-15

13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, **14** by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. **15** He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

About This Week's Message – April 24, 2011

This week, on Easter Resurrection Sunday, we'll explore some of the information concerning the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and then use that as a platform to move into Colossians 2:13-15. Our primary focus will be on verses 13 and 14. We'll see how

*The following questions are the 1:10 Homework for the week of April 24, 2011.
Comments in the grey boxes will not be included on the 1:10 Homework your group receives.*

Getting Started

This week's study is based on Colossians 2:13-15.

Start by praying for the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Then read through Colossians 2:13-15 a few times before moving on.

With your group, you might want to begin by reading the passage aloud. Maybe you would have someone read beginning in v. 1 and read it imagining a group of people around them, the whole church, hanging on every word of instruction for them from Paul.

The following questions are just introductory discussion starters. Remember that throughout you don't have to cover every single question with your group. Let the Spirit lead!

1. Humanly speaking, what is the biggest debt you've ever owed?
2. Have you ever had a debt so great that you couldn't pay it?

3. **Read Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:1-3, and Colossians 2:13.** What does the bible say about us and our sin. Make a list of the things you observe.

Everyone has sinned and will sin. There are no exceptions. We all sin and have at one time walked in disobedience. (Rom 3:23, Eph. 2:3)

We are dead in our sin. ('Were' dead, if we've trusted Christ.) (Eph 2:1, Col. 3:13)

The natural way of the world is the way of sin. — Thus following Jesus is unnatural... it's supernatural. (Eph. 2:2)

Walking in sin equates with following Satan, not Jesus. (Eph. 2:2)

Either the Holy Spirit is at work in our lives, or demons are. (Eph. 2:2)

Sin is the desire of our flesh. (Eph 2:3, Col 2:13)

We owe a debt for our sin and are objects of God's wrath. (Eph 2:3)

4. What is sin?

The Greek word for sin literally means "missing the mark". Sin, then, is anything (thought, word, deed) that does not measure up to God's standard. And God's standard is perfection.

5. **Read Matthew 5:48.** Jesus give his standard here for how we should live... what is it? How do you measure up? It is good enough to be a good person?

Jesus says we ought to be perfect, as he is perfect.

None of us measure up to that standard. Even non-believers will readily say "no one is perfect".

*It's not good enough to just be "good" in relation to others. And for that matter, Jesus himself says in Mark 10:18 and Luke 18:19 that "**No one is good except God alone.**" So even if the standard was being "good", we all fail. Because only God is good!*

In the end, we won't stand in front of a mirror to give an account for our lives, but before God. It's his standard that we'll be judged by, and that standard is perfection. Anything that misses the mark of perfection is sin.

6. **Read Romans 6:23 and Ezekiel 18:20.** What is the effect/consequence of sin?

The consequence for sin is death — both physical and eternal.

7. **Read Romans 5:8 and Colossians 2:13-14.** Did God wait until we measured up to his standard to show us his love? How does he show love?

No!!! He didn't!!! Even when we were still his enemy, still in sin, he sent Jesus to die on the cross for us. It really makes no sense, other than the fact that God is good and gracious and merciful.

God shows us his love by paying the penalty of sin for us, in Jesus.

In this God's love is both full of grace and mercy...

GRACE = getting what I do not deserve (forgiveness, love, righteousness).

MERCY = not getting what I do deserve (condemnation, punishment, God's wrath).

8. **Read Romans 10:9 and Acts 16:31.** What does it mean to confess Jesus as Lord? Why is being raised from the dead important?

Confessing Jesus as Lord means to admit that Jesus is God (just like he said he was) and that since he is God, he has the right of authority in my life.

Jesus told his followers that he would both die AND be raised from the dead. His death and resurrection provide proof that Jesus was telling the truth — he is God and God has power over death!

The resurrection also reminds us of Jesus' death. Jesus died in our place to pay the penalty for our sins.

9. Do you know that you know that you know... that you have trusted Jesus Christ for salvation and become a Christian? Take some time to tell the story in your 1:10.

1 John 5:13 says "I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life." — There is absolute assurance that we're saved. Do we doubt at times? Yes, Thomas doubted, but it's during those times that we must examine ourselves as Paul commands and turn to Jesus and his Word for answers.

While it's normal to doubt at times, if someone cannot point to a time or season of their life in which they repented of sin and turned to Jesus Christ --- if they're unsure if they've

ever done that, then it's unlike that they are truly a believer in Jesus Christ. Challenge your group to point to a specific time or season in their life where they know that they turned from sin (repented) and turned to Jesus Christ for salvation. Push them to be specific. If they cannot, then challenge them to trust Jesus now!

Spending at least some time each week praying for each other will be huge in developing community and seeing growth in your group. Don't just skip over this. If you're starting a new group, it will probably be sparse at first, but set the pace early and establish prayer for each other as an important part of your time together.

Focus first on prayer for each other, but if you need additional ideas, prayer requests will be on the inserts each week after the 1:10 Homework.