

PCC

4.11.21

Catch Up

Spend some time catching up as a group. Use the following questions as a guide:

1. What's something God has been teaching you lately?

Before diving in to the main discussion, spend some time in prayer together as a group. Pray for each other, and for the discussion ahead.

Now transition to the main discussion by answering these questions:

2. Thinking back on Sunday's teaching, what specifically encouraged or challenged you?

Dive In

Read Colossians 1:15-20 and discuss the following questions:

3. What stands out to you from this poem about Christ?

4. What do you think Paul was trying to communicate by putting this poem at the beginning of this letter? Heretical teachers in Colossae contended Christ was merely one of many powers between people and God: How have you seen this play out today, both inside and outside the church? In other words, what are some things that people try to use to bridge the gap between us and God?

- *In 1:15-17, Paul refuted their teaching by presenting Christ as Lord of the universe. The phrase "the firstborn over all creation" does not indicate that Christ was the first created being. In the Old Testament, the firstborn son occupied a position of honor, privilege, and supremacy; Here, the term expresses Christ's preexistent Deity.*

5. In what ways do you struggle to make Christ supreme in your own life? How do you personally struggle with manipulation, fear, and pride?

- *As our Substitute, Jesus pays the penalty of sin and removes our guilt.*
- *As our Victor, Jesus defeats our enemies and removes their power.*
- *As our Sacrifice, Jesus offers Himself to purify us and remove our filth.*
- *As our Friend, Jesus offers compassion and removes our loneliness.*
- *As our Second Adam, Jesus brings new life and removes the curse of death.*
- *As our Redeemer, Jesus frees us from slavery and removes our bondage.*
- *As our Mediator, Jesus makes peace and removes our alienation from God.*

Now read Luke 12:13-21.

- 6. What stands out to you from this story?**
- 7. In what ways do you relate to the rich young man from the parable? How have you observed the desire for wealth or the acquisition of material things causing division in the world around us? In the church?**
- 8. How can Christians discern whether material gain is from God's blessing or from personal greed? What do you make of Jesus' words in v. 20? What was he trying to communicate?**
 - *Instead of fulfilling his moral responsibility to care for the needs of others, the man is rebuked for laying up treasure for himself and for not being rich toward God. Jesus clearly warns his hearers concerning the dangerous eternal implications of wealth, with its seductive tendency toward complacency, self-sufficiency, and covetousness. Though the rich fool anticipates years of ease—a time to eat, drink, be merry—instead an eternal destiny apart from God awaits him. As Jesus' condemning words confirm, "This night your soul is required of you."*
- 8. In what ways do you struggle with detachment? How has the idol of material gain and stability influenced your day to day life?**

Now read Luke 12:22-26.

- 9. Do you consider worry to be a sin? Why or why not? How can a lack of simplicity of life lead to an increase in anxiety?**
 - *3 reasons not to be anxious: life is more than possessions, we are valuable to God, and we cannot control our own lives.*
- 10. How have you experienced worry lead to manipulation, fear, and pride? How can the practices of listening, detaching, and praying help free you from these things?**

Respond

Spend some time reflecting on what you can apply from both this teaching and this discussion in your own life. Use these questions as a guide:

- 10. How do you believe God is prompting you to respond to this teaching? What's one thing you can put into practice this week to walk in obedience to God? What's one challenge or barrier preventing you from walking in obedience?**

End your time by sharing prayer requests, encouraging one another, and by praying for each other, our church, city, nation, and world.