

## **The First to Wake Up**

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Colossians 1:15-23

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### **Synopsis:**

The resurrection of Jesus is not a ticket from earth to heaven.

“Wanna get away?”

No, it is God’s way of reconciling all things in heaven and earth.

“Wanna get a life?”

In the resurrection of Jesus God has reconciled our lives, our bodies, and our relationships. Now we get to live the new reconciled life and announce the good news to others.

### **I.**

What do the following have in common?

-SHOW slides of

Duct tape

Glue stick

Paper clips

\*They all put things back together again

### **Things Fall Apart**

Col 1:17 In him all things hold together

\*Wouldn’t you like someone to put things back together again for you?

-Your life = redeem and restore that which you did/are

-Your body = fix the creaky old bones (Dad’s comment)

-Your relationships = reconcile divorce, lost loved ones

### **II.**

### **Things Fall Apart in Colossae**

Col 1:21 And you who were once estranged and hostile

### Background of Colossian Letter:

-Where = Lycus River, Phrygia/Turkey, Laodicea, textiles (clothe)

-Who = Epaphras, Paul (Ephesus), Onesimus, Philemon

-What = Syncretistic, Zeus, Jewish, Artemis, Isis/Serapis, Mystery

-When = letter from prison in Rome, before 61 (earthquake)

\*Problem = Fragmented lives

### World Views in Colossae: Greek vs. Bible

-Greek = Wanna get away? = salvation is escape

E.g. Body is the prison house of the soul (Greek saying)

- Bible = Wanna get a life? = salvation is reconciliation  
E.g. Body is raised/transformed to new life (1Cor 15)

#### Our worldviews impact how we hear the Bible

- Major Western view = Wanna get away? "I'll Fly Away"  
Some glad morning when this life is over . . .
- Biblical view = Wanna get a life? "This is My Father's World"  
This is my Father's world  
The battle is not done  
Jesus who died shall be satisfied  
And earth and heaven be one

### III.

#### **Resurrection as a Cure for Things Falling Apart**

Col 1:18 He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead

#### READ Col 1:15-20

Note:

Semitic parallel (v15) = hymn ("Amazing Grace")

Words:

All

Creation

Thrones, dominions, rulers, powers (fragment)

Fullness of God

Heaven and earth

Reconcile: all, heaven and earth

Resurrection

#### Hear resurrection differently based upon our worldview

- Greek = They wanted to get away from things
- Bible = God wanted to fix things

\*What do you really want in life?

-Run away?

-God to fix things?

### IV.

#### **Resurrection Means Reconcile Now**

Col 1:22 He has now reconciled you in his fleshly body

#### READ Col 1:21-23 = what they are to do about the hymn

#### What are we to do?

If God has already reconciled all things, how do we live?

(2Cor 5:17-18 God has reconciled, given us ministry of reconciliation)

How would you live if you knew God has already reconciled all things?

1. Life           = quit beating yourself, e.g. me
2. Body           = live with illness, imperfection, you get a new body!
3. Relationships   = start graciously working with those alienated
  
4. Tell others