

God did not demand that we first demonstrate our allegiance to Him before Christ would agree to die in our place. To demand that we somehow show ourselves deserving of forgiveness in order to regain our status as His children would have been futile. What can ungodly, rebellious sinners offer God that would move the holy Creator of the universe to sacrifice His only Son on their behalf? So God acted first, motivated solely by his own sovereign love, to grant mercy to His people as the ultimate expression of his grace (Ex. 33:19; Isa. 63:7; Rom. 9:15-18; Eph. 2:4; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:3). Christ died for us because the Father and the Son loved the unlovable.

Scott Hafemann

He hideth our unrighteousness with His righteousness, He covereth our disobedience with His obedience, He shadoweth our death with His death, that the wrath of God cannot find us.

Henry Smith

Think of it. In order for God to atone for man's sin, someone had to subject Himself to death. Yet only one who had unlimited ability to atone for sin could do that, only a perfect man. He had to have unlimited ability to atone, because He would be shedding His blood for all humankind. He had to be perfect because God accepts only unblemished sacrifices. Who could do that? Only God. And God the Son shed His own blood for us (Acts 20:28).

Josh McDowell and Bart Larson

Depend on it, my hearer, you never will go to heaven unless you are prepared to worship Jesus Christ as God.

C.H. Spurgeon

The good news is that in the face of Jesus Christ we see the very face of God, the One who has decided to be with us and for us in spite of our sin.

Kevin VanHoozer

Vision Matters

Colossians 1:28 and selected Scriptures

Introduction: As we begin another ministry year, crucial questions must be asked and answered. *What are we doing, and why are we doing it?* At Northpoint, the answers flow out of Paul's heart as expressed in Colossians 1:28: *What are we doing?* proclaiming Jesus Christ! *Why are we doing it?* To bring people to a better place, to completion and forgiveness as Christ-followers.

What is happening in our world?

The danger of false dichotomies

The relationship of ethics to truth

What are we doing at Northpoint?

We proclaim Jesus Christ:

as fully and supremely God

as fully and historically man

as God's agent of rescue, redemption, and reconciliation

as Risen Lord and Coming King

Why are we doing what we're doing at Northpoint?

Because we love God and desire His approval

Because we love people and desire the best for them

Because the Gospel works, and makes everything matter

What difference does this make to me?

Two penetrating questions:

What am I doing in this world?

Why am I doing whatever I am doing in this world?

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Kids Notes

Vision Matters

The Questions

Answer the following questions. The answers are on the back.

1. *Jesus Christ is:*

- A. fully God
- B. the only Savior.
- C. The King of Kings.
- D. all of the above.

2. *When we follow Christ, it means that:*

- A. we just have to go to church.
- B. everything in our lives now must honor Him .
- C. we just have to give the church money.
- D. all of the above.

3. *The greatest purpose you can find in life:*

- A. is to follow Jesus, and obey him joyfully.
- B. is to be a professional athlete.
- C. is to become rich and famous.
- D. all of the above

For Family Discussion: How does your family “proclaim Christ” in your neighborhood, through your lives and words?

Space to Doodle

Did You Hear It?

Mark the times you hear these key words:

MATTERS _____	TOTAL: _____
JESUS _____	_____
WORLD _____	_____
COMPLETE _____	_____
GOSPEL _____	_____
PROPITIATION _____	_____

Word Search

Find the following words in the scramble below. Letters are sometimes used twice, and words may go around corners.

MATTERS VISION OTHER JESUS CHRIST GRACE REDEMPTION
 RECONCILIATION PROPITIATION WRATH RESCUER SAVIOR KING
 FAITH GOSPEL PRIVILEGE COMPLETE PAUL COLOSSIANS MUSIC
 SCHOOL FALL DELIGHT WILL FOLLOW DISCIPLE

K S A M K F H Q E F L R D J R P Y
 K I N Y A B O T P E P E H P E A R
 Y D N A B T E L P L L C R R S U S
 Z G T G I L T S L I Z O G O C L H
 D S C S P S O E G O P N N I U W T
 K R B M I G S H R I W C E V E K A
 K Z O P U R T O T S F I G A R O R
 S C H O O L H I L A O L E S X T W
 N O I S I V A C L O J L L I W H O
 M U S I C T T L I E C I I Y Z E H
 D I S C I P L E S N X A V P D R H
 X F K O O M M U C K H T I Y C T Q
 O R N N P V S P X E L I R D I L O
 N O I T P M E D E R M O P A Q E U
 R Q Z I O E C A R G V N F A R G P