

Discussion Guide for Colossians 1:24-25

1. Read Colossians 1:24-26 and then briefly review the sermon outline. (Outline review target time is five minutes or less.)

What parts of Saturday's lesson did you find helpful, enlightening, unclear, or troubling?

2. Truth: Delivering King Jesus' message in a rebellious world demands that we are ready to suffer the same hostility that King Jesus suffered. Evil people will do us evil. At the same time, God is in full control and working our His perfect plan.

The story of Joseph's life was one of both constant faithfulness to God and constant mistreatment by evil men. How can both of these be true? Reflecting on his years of mistreatment, Joseph makes a profound observation. He says to his abusers, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good". (Gen. 50:20) The evil hands of men were pushing Joseph down. At the same time, the sovereign hand of God was raising Joseph up.

This same faithfulness of God is promised to all of us when Paul writes, "we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." (Rom. 8:28)

Survey the experience of Joseph in Genesis chapters 37-50.

After reading each assigned section, ask two questions:

- 1) How do we see evil men pushing Joseph down?
- 2) How do we see the sovereign hand of God raising Joseph up?

Read Genesis 37:5-11, Read Genesis 37:18-28, Read Genesis 39:1-19, Read Genesis 40:1-15, Read Genesis 41:1-43

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