

Do you know what your past and your future have in common?

Neither one is defined by your actions. Christ redefines both your past with forgiveness and your future with hope.



Colossians 1:21 says “You once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds.” From attitude to action, we were enemies of God, doing as we saw fit.

But you are “now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death.” You are forgiven. Accepted. His actions define your past.

The same is true for your future. Verse 22: he reconciled you so that he will “present you holy and blameless and above reproach before [God].”

One day you’ll stand before God. It won’t be your sin or good works, faithfulness or faithlessness that matter. The verdict is already rendered; your future has been redefined.

All this reminds us, we are made for more: As we heard this past Sunday, we are made for more than just staying in our sin.

With past and future secure, we can live in the present, knowing more of his love and turning from sin.

Response:

As we prepare to worship together this Sunday, take a moment to pray. Ask that every single one of us who gathers (for the fourth time or four-thousandth time) would embrace the reality of our past and future defined by Jesus so that we would know more of his love in the present.

Prayer:

Father God, you know what I’m ashamed of in my past. You know my fears for my future. You know my imperfect faith and my lack of faithfulness. Help me to know that this doesn’t change anything. Help me to believe that my past is forgiven and my future is certain. Help me to live today in the joy and love of yesterday’s forgiveness and tomorrow’s hope. In Jesus’ name, and because of Jesus’ work, amen.