

Home Group Reading for November 27-December 3, 2023

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Heb. 10:24-25

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. ¹⁰Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Gal. 6:9-10

“God... reconciled us to himself through Christ and... gave us the ministry of reconciliation.” 2 Corinthians 5:18

Excerpts

“Here, too, the space between every group and object appears to be increasing: Nations divided. Genders. Racial and ethnic cohorts. Gaps growing between political parties, between humans and animals and land. Families separated. Human beings alienated from their own bodies and minds.” Meghan Good

“God is reversing entropy. God is closing the distance. God is bringing divided people back into right relationship. God is bridging the gap. God is saving the world. God is reconciling creation, putting all things back together.” Meghan Good

“Why do we attend church? We attend church because, in spite of the many good, valid reasons to not attend church, we believe that going to church has a tendency to change us from me-centred to others-centred. We further believe that through Christ, we are empowered to carry out “good deeds” of this ministry of reconciliation to a broken and divided world. Only as the church can we stand together in the spaces of brokenness and fear and proclaim what reconciliation looks like.”

Reflection Questions

1. Do you think “good deeds” are always a form of the “Ministry of Reconciliation” that Paul speak of?
2. How in your life have you been on the receiving end of reconciliation efforts?
3. Can you think of a time you’ve sought to bring peace, build bridges, tear down walls or offer restoration? Did you lean on others for support in this?
4. What are areas of reconciliation in our society that need more attention from the Church?
5. Our series looked at 2 reasons for attending church: it makes us more selfless and it allows us to better participate in the work of reconciliation. There are other reasons, though. What are some reasons you think being a part of Christian community and meeting regularly is valuable?