

## God and Sinners Reconciled

Colossians 1:21-23

**The Christmas Condition:** \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Christmas Provision:** \_\_\_\_\_.

- It's \_\_\_\_\_.
- It's \_\_\_\_\_.
- It affects \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- It was accomplished by \_\_\_\_\_.
- It \_\_\_\_\_.
- It's the \_\_\_\_\_.

## QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. Chris mentioned some different ways that our alienation from God affects us. (Loneliness, insecurity, sadness, etc.) What are some specific ways that you have experienced this alienation?
2. Have you been reconciled to God through the death of Christ? What were the circumstances surrounding this event in your life?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20. In your own words, explain what it means to be a “minister of reconciliation.” What are some opportunities you have to follow Christ in this way?
4. Read the following Advent poem by Lucy Shaw. Spend some time praising Christ for being our Mediator.

### MARY'S SONG

Blue homespun and the bend of my breast  
keep warm this small hot naked star  
fallen to my arms. (Rest...  
you who have had so far  
to come.) Now nearness satisfies  
the body of God sweetly. Quiet he lies  
whose vigor hurled a universe. He sleeps  
whose eyelids have not closed before.

His breath (so slight it seems  
no breath at all) once ruffled the dark deeps  
to sprout a world.  
Charmed by dove's voices, the whisper of straw,  
he dreams,  
hearing no music from his other spheres.  
Breath, mouth, ears, eyes  
he is curtailed  
who overflowed all skies,  
all years.  
Older than eternity, now he  
is new. Now native to earth as I am, nailed  
to my poor planet, caught that I might be free,  
blind in my womb to know my darkness ended,  
brought to this birth  
for me to be new-born,  
and for him to see me mended  
I must see Him torn.