



Postcards From The End

7 January (in-person)

14 January (on-line)

<p>Postcard ONE</p>	<p>Colossians 1:19-20 <i>For in Christ all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.</i></p>	<p><i>God is working in everyone, everyplace, everything, every circumstance, to bring good out of it, to move things in the direction of Christ-like love.</i></p>
<p>Postcard TWO</p>	<p>Ephesians 1:8b-10 <i>With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.</i></p>	<p><i>God is in the pain surrendered over to him.</i></p>
<p>Postcard THREE</p>	<p>Romans 8:18-23 <i>I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.</i></p>	<p><i>Terrible doesn't have the last word. Resurrection is the last word.</i></p>

Reflection Questions:

- What impacted you the most from this sermon?
- What is the picture of the end that is provided through these “postcards”?
- How does this help us face pain and suffering?
- What is the hope found in this teaching?
- Read **Colossians 1:19-20**
What stands out to you from this passage?
- Read **Ephesians 1:8b-10**.
What stands out to you from this passage?
- Read **Romans 8:18-23**
What stands out to you from this passage?
- Take time to meditate on these passages.
What do you sense God saying to you through these?
- Imagine the future end that is promised in these verses.
Meditate on that and what God will do in his love.
How can seeing this future reframe your current experience?
- Talk about why these things had an impact and what difference these points make.
- Why is it important to see what God will do at the end of all things?
- How does this vision of the end offer hope in the midst of suffering?
- How does this show us what God is doing in the world, even in the midst of suffering?
- What are you facing now that calls for hope?