

What in the world is God doing?
A course on mission
Class 1: an Introduction

- The plan for the course.
 - **February 23:** Father Brian gives a broad-stroke introduction.
 - **March 2:** Janet Beck, the Outreach Coordinator with the Catherine Foundation, will speak on the Foundation's mission and goals.
 - **March 9:** Ryan and Shahla Patrylo will speak about the mission God has given them in the context of Ryan's work as Chick-fil-A owner/operator.
 - **March 16:** The Rev. Dr. Jack Gabig, professor of Pastoral Theology at Trinity School for Ministry will speak on spiritual formation in the family.
 - **March 23:** Zack McDonough and Father Brian on the upcoming mission trip to Kentucky.

God's plan of salvation.

- The need.
- The goal. Eph. 1:3-10 & 1 Cor. 15:20-28 (see also Col. 1:15-23).

How God addresses humanity in this plan.

- The gospel in chairs.

Our work in the plan.

- Accept the plan! Acknowledge your need to participate. "Repent. Be baptized!"
- Once we are participants, God makes us agents. 2 Cor. 5:14-6:2.

Conclusion: the Church is apostolic.

Scripture references

Ephesians 1:3-10. “³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹**making known to us the mystery of his will**, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, **to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.**”

1 Corinthians 15:20-28. “²⁰But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. ²²For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. ²³But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. ²⁴Then comes the end, when **he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.** ²⁵For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷For ‘God has put all things in subjection under his feet.’ But when it says, ‘all things are put in subjection,’ it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. ²⁸**When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.**”

2 Corinthians 5:14-6:2. “¹⁴For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. ¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.¹⁸ All this is from God, **who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.** ²⁰**Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us.** We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, ‘In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you.’ Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”