



What do you do when it seems like your life has been “locked down”? What’s still true when life comes to a standstill? Paul should know, since he spent a lot of time unable to go where he wanted. Still, he was able to thrive in his faith and his ministry. In this series we will examine his prison epistles to unlock truths that remind us that no matter what the believer is going through, there is still life!

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family and/or with a group.

1 Rick began by reminding us that the first half of this year has been unlike anything we would have imagined (and we are still isolated in the midst of a pandemic). As you reflect on this season of life what are some things that you had hoped would be different by now? Follow up: what is something God has been showing you during this time?

2 STILL... Jesus is still Lord! *In crazy times we especially need to think about what we think about. When life comes to a standstill, what's still true?* What is significant about that statement and question? Follow up: **Read Psalm 46.** In what ways is the message from this Psalm relevant to our situation today? How has being still helped you to know that God is still God and Jesus is still Lord?

3 Rick mentioned that “*the pandemic has exposed our idols.*” The temptation is not so much to deny Christ as to dethrone him. How has this pandemic tempted you to do that? Follow up: **Read Colossians 1:15-20.** What words or phrases stand out to you from this subversive poem? How do they provide you hope and encouragement?

4 JESUS IS... still maker of all. *Everything was created through him and for him.* Why is that such an important truth to remember? Follow up: *Jesus is not just the source; he is the glue.* How can

remembering that “*He holds all creation together*” help you when life comes to a standstill? Share some practical ways you’ve experienced this recently.

5 JESUS IS... still ruler of all. *Thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.* Rick pointed out that “*There is no sphere of existence over which Jesus is not sovereign.*” What does it mean for you to know Jesus is ruler of all? What patterns or attitudes need to change for you to experience the full benefits of His rule in your life?

6 JESUS IS... still savior of all. *Through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.* How does it make you feel to know that God loves you enough that He sent His Son to reconcile you to Him? Follow up: Why is it important to remember that Christ’s victory is cosmic (see **Ephesians 1:10**)?

7 WORSHIP still helps! *When life comes to a standstill, remember what's still true.* How does worship help you, especially, in times like these? Why is it important to keep worshipping even when you don’t feel like it? Follow up: **Read Colossians 3:16-17.** What psalm, hymn, or song have encouraged you the most recently?

