

# A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

July 23, 2020

My dear Friends:

Well, it has been delayed some four months, but today is one of my favorite days of the year: Opening Day for baseball season. Usually, of course, it happens back the first week of April. But with every opening day, hope springs eternal that the St. Louis Cardinals will win their twelfth world championship, that we will crush the hated Cubs, and that good will triumph over evil everywhere.

Truthfully, we need some hope right now, don't we? As we wrestle through the difficult decisions about school—only to have our schools move the goal posts after we come to a conclusion; as we wonder what the effect of the end of the extended unemployment benefits will be on our economy; as we watch the destruction of Portland and Seattle by those who don't care about anything but their own anger; as we fear what might happen if our candidate (whichever one that may be) doesn't win and the other guy does: it is all so bleak. As one friend of mine said, "Unless you look at your 401(k) right now, everything else you look at is pretty dark."

Where do we go for hope as we look at all of this? I've been thinking a lot about this quote from Robert Murray McCheyne: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? Learn much of the Lord Jesus. **For every look at yourself, take ten looks at Christ.** He is altogether lovely. Such infinite majesty, and yet such meekness and grace, and for sinners, even the chief! Live much in the smiles of God. Bask in his beams. Feel his all-seeing eye settled on you in love, and repose in his almighty arms."

Take ten looks at Jesus! That's right! And we do so when we come back to the Bible, to corporate worship, to solid Christian books, to conversation that causes us to take our hearts to him. Let's purpose together to turn off the TV or the computer, stop looking at and worrying over our world, and spend some time looking at Jesus and living much in his smiles, won for us through the cross and the empty tomb. That's how we learn to hope in him.

In the grip of God's grace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sean".