

Col 1:15-23

Intro:

Why colosians written: colosian heresy- “Jesus and” angels, days, rites, rituals, spiritual heirarchy each of which had a part of the whole, secret knowledge, human wisdom and philosophy

Pauls answer, Jesus period. Jesus is all, Jesus is first. Jesus.

I. Jesus is first in His being- v 15a.

He is the image of the invisible God

cf. Jn 14:7-9, 12:44-45, 2 Cor 4:4-5, Heb 1:3

We could not know God, but God made Himself known, not just through words, not just through pictures, but through a life.

“if God is not like this man, then He’d better be”

“image” = duplicate from a prototype, not just like God, but exactly like God

II. Jesus is first over all creation.

A. He is supreme over all creation

1. He is the firstborn over all creation
2. Because all things were created in Him

things in heaven
things on earth
things that are seen
unseen things
thrones
lordships
rulers

authorities- *cf. Eph 1:21*

those things that the Colosians might have relied on were created by Christ and inferior to Him. Those things we might rely on were created by Christ and are inferior to Him.

B. Everything was created by Him and for Him

C. He is supreme above everything- He is before all- more important than anything else

D. Everything relies on Him,

1. Everything is held together by Him.
2. Without Him everything would fail. What we rely on would cease without Him

Do we rely on the stock market? Without Him it would fail. Do we rely on our health? without Him it would fail. Do we rely on gravity or chemistry or the fact that the earth will be there to support us or that the air is there for us to breathe? Without Him, all these things would fail.

3. Everything finds its proper place in Him. If Christ is first, those other things fall in in their proper place

If we say “Jesus and” we neither truly have Jesus or anything else. If we say Jesus period. We have all things

III. He is first in the new creation.

A. He is the head of the body, which is the church.- *cf. Eph 4:15*

B. He is first in all God is doing through the church

1. He is first in all the church

a. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead

b. Why? so that He will be primary and supreme in all things- preeminance

2. The reason He is first in all the church.

a. God was pleased to work through Him- God's choice of action plans was through Him

b. What God did through Him

1) All of the fullness was pleased to dwell in Him-

cf. Col 2:9-10, Jn 14:10-11

not spread among cosmic powers, not spread among fads or pastimes. not spread among pleasures or dreams or accomplishments. all the fullness is in Christ.

2) He reconciled all to Himself through Him- *cf. 16b.*

through Him into Him.

a) He restored all things to Himself by making peace

(1) He reconciled all to Himself by making peace

(a) He reconciled all to Himself

(b) By making peace

(2) He reconciled everything in heaven and on earth to Himself

b) He reconciled us through His death

(1) Even though we were outsiders and enemies

because of our evil thoughts and evil deeds

(2) He brought us back to Himself through His death

(a) He reconciled us through death in His body of flesh.

(b) The purpose- so that He could present us spotless and blameless before

God- *cf. Eph 1:4, Col 1:28*

((1)) This end is conditional

((2)) If we remain rooted and

grounded by faith. Not

being shaken from the

hope of the gospel which

was preached.

“God help me to look at Christ with honest eyes, eyes that are my own, to look at him with the help of all who knew him on earth; let me look at him from all sources and ask him to prove to me what he proved to be to them. Let Christ be to us what he was to them, the inspirer of our lives, the redeemer of our souls, the Savior of our characters, the transformer of our inner man, the everlasting inspiration of all our hopes, our starting point, our goal, the revelation of life beyond the grave- “Christ, only Christ, and let the name suffice.”