

JESUS, HE'S ALL I NEED

TEXT: COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

What is Christianity if Christ is not who the Bible says? Simple, it is nothing! Everything that we are, hope to be, or will be is founded upon Jesus Christ. This is why Paul is so unbending in his defense of the supremacy of Christ.

■ The false teachers in the Colossian church had several misconceptions about Christ which Paul directly refutes:

- 1) They believed that matter is evil, so they said God would not have come to earth as a true human being in bodily form. Paul states that Christ is the exact likeness of God, is himself God, and yet died on the cross as a human being.
- 2) They believed God did not create the world because he would not have created evil. Paul says that Jesus Christ, who was also God in the flesh, is the Creator of both heaven and earth.
- 3) They said Christ was not the unique Son of God, but rather one of many intermediaries between God and people. Paul explains that Christ existed before anything else and is the firstborn of those resurrected.
- 4) They refused to see Christ as the source of salvation, insisting that people could find God through special and secret knowledge. Paul affirms that a person can be saved through Christ alone. (Life Application Bible, p.2098)

To make his point, Paul cites several *examples* of the supremacy of Christ our Savior.

I. JESUS IS THE REVELATION OF GOD (vv.15-18).

A. As deity, He is the image of God and the “firstborn” (v. 15).

The word “image” (*eikon* in Greek) literally means the manifestation of God.

■ The writer of Hebrews called Him, “the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person.” (Hebrews 1:3)

The term “firstborn” was used in many cases to denote “first in rank or honor.” Simply put, Jesus holds the highest place of honor.

(Example, Ps.89:27 & Ex.4:22)

B. As creator, He is the originator of all things (v. 16).

God created all things through the Son. Notice the line of thought: verse 16a, “for by Him” all things were created; *verse 16b*, “through Him” all things were created; verse 16c, “for Him” all things were created.

■ Again the writer of Hebrews refers to Christ as the One “through whom also He (God) made the worlds.” (Hebrews 1:2)

■ William Barclay explains, “Jesus Christ is the guiding, directing, dominating spirit of the church...the source of the church’s life and being, and the director of the church’s continued activity.. Christ is not a dead hero, not a past founder, but a living presence.. The final triumph of His resurrection has given Him the right to be Lord of all.” (145-6)

Jesus is Lord over all things but does He have preeminence in your life?

II. JESUS IS THE FULLNESS OF GOD (vv.19-23).

A. As the fullness of God, He is able to reconcile man to God (vv. 19-20).

■ Martin Luther had a dream in which he stood on the Day of Judgment before God Himself -- and Satan was there to accuse him. When Satan opened his book full of accusations, he pointed to transgression after transgression of which Luther was guilty. As the proceedings went on,

Luther's heart sunk in despair. Then he remembered the cross of Christ - and turning upon Satan he said, "There is one entry which you have not made, Satan."

The devil retorted, "What is that?"

And Luther answered, "It is this -- the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sins." (Hewett, 67-8)

B. As the fullness of God, He is able to bring man into the presence of God (vv. 2 1-22).

Because Christ is an all sufficient Savior, He is able to bring us into the presence of God, holy and acceptable, based on His merit and righteousness.

C. As the fullness of God, He is able to keep those who trust in Him (v. 23).

To the reconciled, holy, blameless and those who are above reproach, Paul gives the key to security in Christ. **Notice** the first phrase of v.23, "if indeed you continue in the faith. **IF** is a little word with BIG implications. We are secure when we trust in Christ. There's no need to worry. If you want to be kept, Christ has the power to keep you!

CONCLUSION

■ When Lloyd C. Douglas, author of *The Robe* and other novels, was a university student, he lived in a boarding house, says Maxie Dunnam in *Jesus' Claims -- Our Promises*. Downstairs on the first floor was an elderly, retired music teacher, now infirm and unable to leave the apartment.

Douglas said that every morning they had a ritual they would go through together. He would come down the steps, open the old man's door, and ask, "Well, what's the good news?"

The old man would pick up his tuning fork, tap it on the side of his wheelchair, and say, 'That's Middle C! It was middle C yesterday; it will be middle C tomorrow; it will be middle C a thousand years from now. The

tenor upstairs sings flat, the piano across the hall is out of tune, but my friend, that is middle C!”

The old man had discovered one thing upon which he could depend, one constant reality in his life, one “still point in a turning world.” For Christians, the one “still point in a turning world,” the one absolute of which there is no shadow of turning, is Jesus Christ. (Larson, 27)

There will always be those who try to deny the power, existence, deity, or Lordship of Christ. But it really doesn't change anything because Christ is forever the same. He is God. He is Lord. He is Supreme! And He's all I need! Are you trusting in Him today?

References

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