

"Christ the Creator"

Colossians 1:15-18

Theme: The Supremacy of Christ over Creation.

Topic: Understanding the Supremacy of Christ is critical to the stability of your faith. When you see Christ for who He really is, rather than who you think He is, all the different areas of your life start to fall in place.

- The Colossians' trouble? God had set eternity within their hearts (Ecc. 3:11) and they were looking to fill that essential longing with Christ...*and*. (Syncretism)
- Paul's Cure? Jesus Christ *alone* is enough to satisfy their eternal longing. (*Adding anything forfeits the Gospel-Promise.*)
- And if they only knew Who He really is they'd need nothing else to satisfy their God-given eternal needs. (2:10)

Today's Question: And so, who is He?

Vs. 15 - He is the image of the invisible God...

1. God is invisible (John 1:18). Christ has come as the God-Man to reveal and reflect Him.

"No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has revealed Him." (John 1:18)

"He is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His nature." (Hebrews 1:3)

"The virgin shall be with child and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name 'Immanuel,' which translated means, 'God with us.'" (Matt. 1:23)

- A. Paul keeps emphasizing the Deity of Christ to the Colossians. (1:19; 2:9-10a).
 - I. If they could get this down they'd no longer be able to be deceived by "religion-sellers."
- B. Last wk. - The Character and Nature of God by studying His attributes (*Theology Proper*).
This wk. - **Study the Person and Life of Jesus Christ** (*Christology*).
 - I. He's Merciful and Forgiving: (*John 8 - Adulterous Woman; On the Cross - "Father, forgive them."*)
 - II. He's Compassionate: (*John 11 - Lazarus' death: God hurts with those who hurt.*)
 - III. He's Omnipotent: (Over nature, sickness, death, Laws of Physics, evil).
 - IV. He Loves Children and is Very Protective of Them: (Take them in His arms and say, "Be like these." - He'd threaten those who would hurt them with a millstone-necklace and a deep sea.)
- C. **If you want to know who God is Jesus is the Key.**
 - I. What does God like and dislike? What will He respond to you in different scenarios? What is His tone? What makes Him angry? When does He extend mercy? etc.
 - II. **Always be studying the life of your Lord Jesus Christ. (The Gospel's and N.T. Books.)**
 - III. **Remember: understanding who God is will help you live with Him (& He with you) to the fullest of potentials.**

Vs. 15 - He is...the First Born over all creation...

2. Does not mean that Jesus was the first thing created.
 - A. "First Born" in Scripture almost always pertains to status or power, not order of birth necessarily.

Israel is called, "My beloved son." - Ezekiel 4:22

- B. Jesus is not part of the creative order but preeminent over it (as the first born son would be over his tribe in O.T.)

Vs. 16-17 - He's the Creator...For by Him all things were created...(whole verse).

3. Jesus is the Creator of all things in Visible Creation and Invisible Creation.
 - A. Visible Creation: He created everything good but some has been twisted into bad. (*Like wine or sex, etc.*)
 - B. Invisible Creation: He created all the angels good; but some of them too have turned bad.
 - C. **Jesus is your Creator and Savior...not just Savior.**
 - I. **You don't really know your Creator if you don't have this as the starting point of your relationship with Jesus Christ - Your Creator became a real man to suffer for you and relate to you.**

Vs. 18a - **He is...the head of the Church...**

4. The Church is not run by "whoever." The Church is Jesus'. *(keep in context with Colossians)*
 - A. We don't get to make our own rules.
 - B. We don't get to get rid of the ones we don't like.
 - C. We don't get to set our own agendas.
 - D. **The Church is not changing or evolving as so many seem to claim. (Remember Syncretism?)**

Vs. 18b - **He is...the firstborn from the dead...**

5. Paul counter's Gnosticism. *(in it's infancy stages and was fully established by the 2nd Century A.D.)*
 - A. Gnosticism taught that all the material universe is evil and all the spiritual universe is good.
 - I. So these false teachers at Colossae were bringing in this mentality: "Jesus is my guy. He's who I worship. But He didn't create the Visible Universe because he wouldn't create anything evil. And He wasn't born of the virgin Mary because He wouldn't take on a real physical body which is evil. Therefore, He never really died on the cross and He never really rose from the dead."
 - B. Gnosticism taught that the way to come to God was through a list of spirit beings who emanated from God (Jesus being one of them) and by which He may be approached.
 - I. Look at Colossians 2:8-10, 18
 - C. **Syncretism and Gnosticism are still very much alive today.**
 - I. Gnosticism:
 - a.) Eastern Religions (rid a self-existence to become one with the universe).
 - b.) Scientology and Christian Science (the power of positive thinking).
 - c.) New Age Movement (spirit beings will come to earth bringing in the Age of Aquarius).
 - II. Syncretism:
 - a.) Horoscopes, Fortune Telling, Luck, Religious Works, etc.

Close:

- Do you have a "Jesus and..." kind of faith? Or is Jesus alone enough for you? Is He your "Fullness?"
- Have you let some leader persuade you to add to the simplicity of the Gospel? (this by necessity means a taking away from the Character and Quality of Jesus Christ and therefore God Himself.)