



Study on Colossians

Discuss – What difference does having Jesus in your life really make to you?

Do you think we live in the fullness of Christ and his promises today? (If so how? If not why not?)

What do you think is really possible for those who have Jesus in their lives?

Read - Colossians 1 v 15 – 18

What Paul is declaring here is that because of who Jesus is and the power and authority He has, Jesus is sufficient **in all things** and **in all ways!** Paul declares some amazing truths concerning Jesus that if understood and established at the core of our faith, have massive power to release us into new levels of trust and confidence. What is declared here is that Jesus is the Father's agent in creation, revelation and redemption. Through Jesus, God's full purpose for his creation, for the universe, for us is accomplished.:-

Here are some of the things that are declared about Jesus:-

Image of the invisible God:-

Jesus is the exact revelation and representation of God. The Greek word means "exact image," In Jesus we see who God is - Creator and Redeemer. We see what God is like – a God of mercy and love – and what God does. Jesus in character, action and words is the invisible God made visible. What Paul is declaring here is that Jesus is not just another go between. He is unique for he is God Himself, the full embodiment of God and therefore is fully qualified to bring us back to God.

LOOK UP:- 2 Corinthians 4 v 4 – 6, Philippians 2 v 5 – 6, Hebrews 1 v 2 – 9

Firstborn over all creation :-

This phrase is not talking about Jesus being the first created being – for we have just seen that Jesus is God Himself – rather it is a title that refers to the status that Jesus has in regard to His Sovereignty and Authority. Through His obedience Jesus has been exalted to the highest place and all things are reconciled through Him. This title distinguishes Jesus from all things – He is supreme over all creation and has authority over it. Jesus is the mediator – agent and goal of all things. His power is absolute over all negative cosmic forces - which are created subjects of His creation.

All things created in Him:-

What is declared here is that the whole of creation in its beginning – though its sustaining and to its redemption finds its origins and purpose in Jesus. All things created in (*en*) him. Through (*dia*) him and for / or with respect to (*eis*) him. Christ is the source, the location from whom all things come into being and in whole all creation is contained. Because of this all powers on earth and in the heavenly realms both good and bad are subject to Him. Every part of the created cosmos visible and invisible was created in, by and for him and every part will be touched by Christ's reconciling work on the cross.

He is before all things and in Him all things consist.

What is revealed to us here is that Christ is not only universal in His preeminence but it is Christ who continues to sustain the whole of creation. Scripture clearly defines that creation is not self sufficient in its existence but that Jesus is the operating principle that controls creation's existence.

As H.C.G.Moule declares:- **" He keeps the cosmos from becoming chaos!"**

He is the head of the body, the church.

What we see here is that Christ is also Lord of the new order that God establishes through His Son's death and resurrection. The Kingdom children of God who make up His body are under the direction and authority of Jesus, the Head. Through this body Jesus manifests His ministry of reconciliation and declares His power and authority over all created things. Because Jesus is head of both the cosmos and also the church this means that these two things are bound together in the purpose of God regarding redemption. The church becomes an agent of redemption.

Discuss – How does it make you feel that the one who not only gives you salvation, but gives you many promises in His Word is declared in this way in Scripture?

How do you think this knowledge of Jesus as supreme, Creator, the one who has full power and authority over creation should effect us in how we relate to Him and how we trust Him?

Do you think most Christians have a wide enough view of who Jesus is and what He can do in the world today?

Read – Colossians 1 v 19 – 23

Paul now leads onto a wonderful ministry that we find within the plan of God for humanity. This plan is that the preexistent Christ comes to the earth takes on our humanity and sheds His blood for you and for me. Here we see Paul declaring to us that the supreme creator and sustainer of all things becomes the crucified and resurrected Lord. Here the invisible God enters the plane of human experience in order to reconcile all things in heaven and on earth by means of His humiliating death upon the cross.

Discuss – The wonder of this mystery and how it makes you feel