

Jesus is everything

Colossians 1:15-23

September 18, 2019

The Colossian heresy

- Jewish aspects
- Flesh at odds with God
- God still had more of himself to give than Christ
- Denied the sufficiency and supremacy of Christ

Colossians 1:15-23

“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Image of the invisible god

- “You shall not make an image” (2nd Commandment)
- We must not worship the true God and imagine Him to be what we would prefer Him to be
- God knew we needed an image, so He provided one
- If we were allowed to make our own images about God we could not avoid controlling Him

Firstborn over creation

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Firstborn over creation

- Not the firstborn OF creation, the firstborn OVER creation
- Jesus will inherit it all because he made it all
- “all things” —whatever aspect of creation we think about, Christ is the sufficient explanation!
- John 1:3 “Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”

Firstborn from among the dead

“And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.” (v. 18)

Firstborn from among the dead

- Christ is the firstborn over the old creation and he is the firstborn from the new creation
- He is the firstborn of the new resurrected humanity—the community of Jesus
- He is the supreme head of the church
- He is the head of the body: emphasizes total dependence upon Christ

Reconciliation

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have been a servant.” (v. 19-23)

Reconciliation

- Initiative belongs wholly to God
- What is astonishing is not that we need a Savior, but that in Jesus Christ we find a Savior
- Christ is the image of the fullness of God, the Lord and heir of creation, the head of the body the Church, and the only mediator through whom God has reconciled us to himself
- This is Paul's view of Christ—is it ours??

application

- “to present everyone fully mature in Christ”
- Our vision of Christ is the secret to growing into maturity
- Maturity is not only for a minority—it is available to everyone
- “If we want to become giants in Christ we have to see Christ in his fullness and majesty—then our worship and faith and obedience will be drawn out from us and we shall give him the honor and glory which are due to his unique name.” John Stott

application

- What are the places where you are struggling?
- What is the distorted view of God underneath that struggle?
- Put Jesus there