**Colossians:** Steadfast Faith In and Unchanging Savior

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| 7.5.15 | Grace | Col 1:15-23 | Part 2 | JC = my purpose, comfort, acceptance | 30 min |

Introduction

Attn: **Terminator released July 1. T2 released July 3 ’91**. Story of orthodontist.

Them: “come with me if you want to live.” Not T but JC. What does it mean for him to be creator, sustainer and redeemer. **Why does it matter to me? >>PRAY<<**

Struct: Continue Col. **Page 983 in Bible in front of you**. Focus on JC in distracting wrld

**Some things you should know about the colossians**: to understand Paul’s bold statements about Christ, original context can help you feel the weight of His words. Most of these ideas came from false teacher trying to sway Col. People away from JC:

1. **Some believed material things were evil**; if JC was God he would not have a body
2. **Some believed that God would not have created the world because he would not create evil**. Jesus did create all things, but evil created itself; it was a choice.
3. **Some believed Jesus as just another God in their polytheistic worldview**. Paul wanted to be clear there is only one God, and it is Jesus Christ.
4. **Some refused to believe you find salvation through Jesus Christ but through that it only came through some special knowledge**. Paul proclaimed faith alone.

These things are true in pockets of our culture (review and personify). Bible still relevant

**vv. 15-16—CREATOR**: (PURPOSE) ALL THINGS FROM HIM AND FOR HIM

* **Image of the invisible God –** means the nature of God is perfectly revealed in Him
* **Firstborn of creation – Eternal fatherhood demands eternal son.** Does not mean JC was born. God gave all inheritance and sovereignty. Writing name on things
  + This is how the firstborn statement is used by David in messianic ps: **“I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth” - Ps. 89:27**
* **By Him all things were created** – JC existed far before He was ever born to Mary. John 1:3 makes clear **he was an agent of creation**, also in 1 Cor. 8:6. Imagine – “Do this” between JC and God the Father in the creation process. A creative God.
  + The false teachers were saying if JC were truly God he would have stayed in the spiritual realm. Paul saying **all things physical and spiritual are under Christ**.
* **He created all things**, with no exception. **All powers** in heaven and on earth.
* **GOD’S GOAL for CREATION–**“**all things** **created through him & for him”.** 
  + **All things are for Him, not for us or merely for our pleasure.** This is why sin and misuse of the gifts He gives is grotesque to Him. It perverts His creation.
* **Christ’s role in creation gives me purpose in all my living & Repentance.**
* **The drive for what pleases us is strong;** he gives deeper purpose. Demands faith!

**v. 17-18—SUSTAINER**: (COMFORT) MY STILL-INVOLVED CREATOR

* **Jesus is not only the creator of all things,** but He is also the sustainer of all things. He keeps things from flying into utter chaos. This calls for our dependence on Him.
  + **We’ve been told “independence is the goal”.** In God’s mind, dependence.
* **Hebrews 1:3, “He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.”** We see that he is the image of God (cf. v. 15) being so, he “**upholds the universe.”** Most pwrfl
  + **Yet, we read a verse like that and we know he is capable but we’d rather try on our own.** We are like toddlers with a sufficient father standing by.
  + We need to **view Him as a servant to all, not subordinate**, but truly the one to rely on for all help. He is daily protecting us, caring for us and sustaining us.
* **V. 18 – “He is the head of the church”** (cf. 1 Cor 12:27; Eph 1:22, 4:15). Leader of all mankind, especially those in the Church. Like a present-day “head of gov,” this term points to Christ’s preeminence as Lord. He is the Head b/c only one able.
* **“Head” also gives a picture of also the sustenance He gives to the whole body** – controlling actions, giving nutrition and driving volition.
* The statement of Jesus being **firstborn of the dead** is to make the point that He was raised from the dead, showing that he had power over the material world.
  + I head a man say once, “**He is the only man who has ever predicted that he would die and rise again. This is proof enough for me**; I’m with Him.” ☺
* Warning, this is moving: The Story of Tyler. God’s presence brings peace and hope.

**He holds all things together, including my life so in it He may be glorified**

**vv. 19-23—REDEEMER**: (ACCEPTANCE) MADE RIGHTEOUS BY HIS BLOOD

* **Fully God and fully man –**He was divine and human at the same time.
* **“The fullness of God was pleased to dwell” –** When you understand the OT context, adds significance (Col. Reader would have had). God close to “Dwell” in the tabernacle & temple. **Ezek 44:4, “the glory of the Lord filled the temple”**
  + **Understand He did not just show of God’s glory, but he encapsulated it.**
  + Acts 17:24, “**God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man”** now in Jesus.
* V 20 – **ALL THINGS reconciled by the blood of the cross!** The goal of God **is to reconcile all things to Himself**. No hidden agenda here; goal w/o compromise
  + This is a dramatic and firm statement: By His blood all peace ultimately comes.
* V 21 - specifically to the church at Colossae, but applicable for the whole church.
  + **Once alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,** now b/c of Christ their wickedness is no longer seen. They are clothed in Christ’s righteousness.
  + **Rom. 13:14, Put on the Lord Jesus Christ –** his righteousness, not my flesh.
  + **Is. 61:10, “He Covered me”** and **“He clothed me”** – his beauty over my filth.
* **We were at one time HOSTLE IN MINDS and EVIL IN DEEDS**. NIV trans “We were **enemies in our minds**”. Wrong thinking always leads to sin = separation.

**There is no such thing as good enough.** Thank God there isn’t!

No one is good enough to save themselves. If we want to live with God, we have to rely on Jesus Christ to save us. Murderer of just a good citizen. No one is good enough..

OUR HOPE: v 22 - The work of Christ summarized in a verse: He has reconciled people for the goal of **presenting us as holy and blameless and above reproach before God.**

* **“Holy and blameless” is the same language used in the OT** to describe the unblemished animals that the Levitical priest would bring for a sacrifice to God.
  + How beautiful to think that when Christ brings us to His father, we are seen as **above reproach.** This means that there is nothing to be critical or pointed out. Nothing needs to be censored or reprimanded; all things laid-bare, nothing can be found that does not deserve God’s presence (col. 1:10).
  + We don’t feel this way – we feel dirty, used goods, trampled on, messed up, failure: when we hold on to these feelings we cling to a cheap view of Grace.
* **V 23 - Faithfulness to God is essential to the Christian faith**. The way that we are to remain as disciples is “established and firm” (NIV).
  + The idea of remaining steadfast is found in **not shifting.** This brings to mind the imagery that JC used in Matt 7 of the house built on the rock or the sand.

COMMUNION—This is a meal of refreshment. **Purpose, Comfort and Acceptance**!