MESSAGE OUTLINE



Colossians 1:15-20 NKJV

INTRODUCTION
Paul is both defending and also proclaiming the deity of Jesus Christ in what we call His *preeminence*.

Even David proclaimed in Psalm 27:4 that he too wanted to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord.

Finally people had their chance when Jesus came.

And my prayer today is that we can gaze upon Him and understand who and what Jesus did, and will do—seeing all this through the Word of God in today's message, in 2024.

The Word of God is the Son of God, who is seated PHYSICALLY in the SPIRITUAL realm on the throne, and He is living and active now, in our space, our time, and our reality and He has the authority to powerfully transform our lives today.

This is the message of hope through redemption to us from and by God.

STRUCTURE
In Colossians 1:13-14, Paul gives us an introduction of what he will expand upon in verses 15-20. And these will illustrate the two initial points that we must grasp in today's message.

First in verse 13, he talks about the authority of Jesus as being the King of God's Kingdom. And in verse 14, he explains our position in how we may enter the Kingdom of the Son.

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. **(Colossians 1:13-14)**

Jesus Christ is opposed to the popular culture they had—undefined spirituality.

Today the emphasis is on the scientific and the visible.

Scientism—the idea that only what is provable by science is the reality, today's default world view.

THE GOD MAN

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. **(Colossians 1:15-18)**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him... **(John 1:1-3)**

Jesus was the firstborn over or superior to all creation *and* indicates his position as being before all things.

Genesis 1:3 ***"Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light."***

It was through Jesus the Word, that the entire universe came into being from the heart of the Father.

Then on that first Christmas morning, the Word, the deity, dwelt among us. Born in creation in the flesh.

No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. **(John 1:18)**

God's Word declared Him to us, So in effect God said, "Let there be Me!"

Jesus declared to Philip who was confused about this, which may be confusing to us, made it very simple: ***"He who has seen Me has seen the Father."*** **(John 14:9)**

That is all you need to know.

WHY?
This is a fallen world we live in! Can't you see? All creation is broken.

Do you think, we—this generation can fix the world before our great grandkids will be born? Doubtful. How about our great-great grandkids? Also doubtful.

What can we do? The Church, they got it. They were looking for a savior to fix the world.

And history had primed them for it.

HISTORY TEACHES WHERE WE ARE HEADED
The people back then were under a single empire, Augustus Caesar the first Roman emperor.

Do you know that before Augustus became emperor there was a "gospel" about him too? Their god called Providence has sent the son of god, Augustus Caesar, as their savior, to organize their lives, and create prosperity and peace.

But nothing improved! No one saved them, all the Caesars made the world more chaotic every time.

There was no one who could fix things. Unless.. the Creator of the universe came. And He came..

19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. **(Colossians 1:19-20)**

The restoration of the world begins not top down, but bottom. Not with atoms, but in our hearts!

God ***made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.*** **Acts 15:9**

The Genesis creation now gets flipped. Christ is the firstborn and redemption continues within you.

This is why salvation is a heart issue: ***if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*** **Romans 10:9**

We are saved, right? Why are we still suffering in this life?

1. What do we do now?
2. What comes next?

THE ANSWERS

What happens next?
A ruler will emerge and will be proclaimed as god and will rule over every nation. And persecution of the church will begin. But the Son of God, our savior will return.

After which, the end of all creation and the entire universe will come to an end:
looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? **(2 Peter 3:12)**

The new heavens and the new earth will emerge and the restoration of all things will be finalized.

What do we do now?
We are ambassadors for Christ to both announce His kingdom coming and share the culture it.

People all over the world are in need of hope and restoration. They are suffering in life!

Why are we still suffering now?
Because you are trusting in only what you see, in the dirt of this world, and not gazing upon Jesus!

We are putting hope in things, dirt, not God!

And the Day of the Lord will surely come. That's our hope.

Why don't things go my way?

STEPHEN
Stephen was facing an angry mob.

But in that moment of hardship, Stephen didn't look at the circumstances. He did not worry about what was going to happen. He didn't fight with the people. He didn't get worked up. Instead the Bible says, ***he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.*** **(Acts 7:55)**

And this is the application for all of us...

No matter what we are going through, no matter the challenge we are facing... **gaze upon Jesus.**

He is there. He knows and felt suffering as we do. When things are not right... **gaze upon Jesus.**

And He plans to fix not only our hearts. Because if it is just about us and our hearts, then we still need to deal with the rest of the fallen creation all around us. No His plan is to restore all things!

INVITATION
Make peace with Him through the blood of His Son. Have peace with God! Stop running!

For all who call upon the name of the Lord, shall be saved!

Jesse Mark Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
March 23-24, 2024

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