

The Preeminence of Christ

Colossians 1:9-18 (TPT)

9 Since we first heard about you, we've kept you always in our prayers that you would receive the perfect knowledge of God's pleasure over your lives, making you reservoirs of every kind of wisdom and spiritual understanding. 10 We pray that you would walk in the ways of true righteousness, pleasing God in every good thing you do. Then you'll become fruit-bearing branches, yielding to his life, and maturing in the rich experience of knowing God in his fullness! 11 And we pray that you would be energized with all his explosive power from the realm of his magnificent glory, filling you with great hope. 12 Your hearts can soar with joyful gratitude when you think of how God made you worthy to receive the glorious inheritance freely given to us by living in the light. 13 He has rescued us completely from the tyrannical rule[d] of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom realm of his beloved Son. 14 For in the Son all our sins are canceled and we have the release of redemption through his very blood. 15 He is the divine portrait, the true likeness of the invisible God, and the first-born heir of all creation. 16 For through the Son everything was created, both in the heavenly realm and on the earth, all that is seen and all that is unseen. Every seat of power, realm of government, principality, and authority—it was all created through him and for his purpose! 17 He existed before anything was made, and now everything finds completion in him. 18 He is the Head of his body, which is the church. And since he is the beginning and the firstborn heir in resurrection, he is the most exalted One, holding first place in everything.

- I. In Paul's letter to the Church in Colosse, he begins by revealing ALL that God did through Christ!! He then reveals WHO CHRIST IS, the "preeminence of Christ," and by it revealing the authority, confidence and secure nature of God's dealings!
 - A. Paul expresses what his desire is for the Church!
 1. That we know just how much God loves and cares for us.
 2. He says may we truly understand the spiritual depth of what has done for us.
 3. Paul expresses his desire for us to walk out our righteousness or in other words, live and walk as Jesus did!
 4. He says he hopes we will bear the fruit of God's work in our lives but getting to know God in His fullness!
 5. He says this is possible by God's "explosive power" in our lives!
 6. Lastly, Paul says we have been delivered from the kingdom of darkness and that our sin has been completely cancelled!
 - B. That is an amazing list of factual elements of our redemption in Jesus Christ!!! Do we believe it? Do we live like it?

- C. THEN, Paul explains the authority behind such possibilities! He explains that each available act or behavior is founded upon The truth of WHO JESUS CHRIST IS!
 - 1. Jesus is exactly like God in every way! He is God's expression of Himself in the earth!
 - 2. Everything created in heaven and earth was made through Him and for Him!
 - 3. He is the absolute authority over everything, and all things exist for His purposes!
 - 4. He always has been and always will be! All things created are complete in Him! Find their ultimate purpose in Him!
 - 5. He is the Lord of all the redeemed and we get our direction and purpose in life from Him!
 - 6. The life of His resurrection is in all of us who have received it!
- D. As your "poimen" (poymen) and "kerux" (kayrooks) or as we say in english pastor, preacher, minister or shepherd...my greatest desire is to proclaim and preach to you WHO CHRIST IS and His desire for your life!!! That is the purpose from which I come every time I stand before you!!! Everything else is secondary!

II. When we truly focus and pay attention to the "story line" of Scripture we see that everything God says and does is a revelation of Jesus Christ and His provision to redeem all of creation! Everything!

- A. From the very first response of God in the Garden of Eden, we see Him encouraging Man and explaining to Him that He has The Fall under control!

Genesis 3:14-15 (NLT)

14 Then the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild. You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live.
 15 And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

- 1. That's poetic verse for saying, "You may cause man to stumble, but there is one coming who is going to destroy your authority!"
- 2. All throughout the scripture story we see God using prophetic voices, people's experiences, metaphoric sayings and poetic writings to reveal the character and nature of Christ and His work.

3. The ultimate message of The Word of God is the Person and Provision of Jesus Christ!

B. We see the “appearance of Christ” throughout the story line of scripture!

Genesis 16:7 (NIV)

7 The angel of the Lord found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur.

Genesis 12:7, 17:1 (NIV)

7 The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him.

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me faithfully and be blameless.

Genesis 22:11 (NIV)

11 But the angel of the Lord called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied.

Exodus 3:2 (NIV)

2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up.

Isaiah 63:9 (NIV)

9 In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

1. In most cases such as these the “Angel of The Lord” means a “Redeemer Who saves!”
2. Various scholars reveal that there are some 558 Old Testament Messianic references!

C. He is called:

1. A “Blessing for the nations!” Gen. 12:3
2. A “Ruling Scepter.” Gen. 49:8-12
3. The “Star of Jacob.” Num. 24:17
4. A “prophet and King.” Deut. 18:15, Psalm 72
5. An “Angel and Mediator.” Job 33:23-28

6. The “Anointed One” and “Faithful Priest.” I Sam. 2:35-36
7. The “Conqueror and Enthroned Ruler,” “Groom” and “Triumphant King!” Psalm 2, 110, 40, 45, 68, 72