

The Doctrine of Christ (Col. 1:13-22)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. We are going to look at what the scriptures teach about the work of Christ in creation, and about His nature and character. What His characteristics are like.
- B. The Apostle Paul does a thorough job in this epistle to unwrap who Jesus Christ, the Son of God is, and what He did for us through his mediatorial work [the act of joining God and man together] on the Cross.

II. THE REDEMPTIVE WORK OF CHRIST

- A. The Apostle Paul describes what the Lord accomplished for us in redemption. He qualified us to be “partakers” [to share, participate, give us a portion] of the inheritance in the saints.
¹²“Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance in the saints. He delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love. In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins” Col.1:12-13
- B. In redemption Christ “*delivered us from the power of darkness*”. Jesus rescued us from darkness [Satan, demons] through the power of the blood of Christ. This reality is extremely powerful. Christ’s authority has broken the power of darkness over us, both now and forever more.
- C. Not only has He delivered us, but He “conveyed us” into the kingdom of the Son of His love. The word means, “*to transpose, to transfer, to remove from one place to another.*” The idea is, we used to be in the kingdom of darkness, but now, Jesus has moved us out of that, and placed us into His kingdom.
- D. “*In whom we have redemption*” (v.14). To “redeem” means, “to buy back, to purchase”. It carries the idea that Jesus “bought” us from the slavery market and set us free. “*Through His blood, the forgiveness of sins*” (v. 14). The cost of our redemption was his blood (his life for ours). See the book of Hebrews for more on this (Heb. 9:12, 22, 10:11-12). Also, Ex. 12:13, 1Pe. 1:18-19.

III. HIS CREATIVE WORK

- A. All things that exist were made by Jesus; doesn’t that sound simple? The Word of God says He is the creator of all. “*For by him all things were created... visible and invisible.*” (v.16)
“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 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 power. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.” (Col. 1:16-17)

- C. **“thrones, dominions, principalities, powers” (v. 16)** refers to governing authorities and rulers in visible and invisible realms, whether they be kings, presidents, dictators, demonic structures and places of spiritual control. **“thrones”** means seat, potentate throne. **“dominion”** means mastery, lordship, one who possesses dominion. **“principalities”** means magistrate, power, rule. **“powers”** conveys the idea of someone who controls, influences, has jurisdiction. All things were created through Him and for Him.
- D. **“In Him all things consist” (v.17)**. And in Him all things consist [constitute, hold together]. There is a unique “force” that holds the universe together. Someone has coined the term “The Colossian Factor” to describe this force.

IV. HIS PREEMINENCE

- A. The verse describes the preeminence of Christ. He is *the head of the body (the church)*. He is the *beginning, the firstborn from the dead*. These designations describe the preeminence of Christ in His exalted position. There is no one higher. Who is Jesus? He is the Christ, the exalted One above all else. There’s no one like Him!
- “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” (v.18)**
- B. **“He is the head of the body, the church” (v.18)**. The word for “church” is *“ekklesia”*. It describes a group of called out ones. Jesus is the head of the Church (Matt. 16:18-19). **“On this rock I will build my Church and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it”**.
- C. **“Firstborn from the dead” (v.18)** refers to the fact that Christ was the first to rise from the dead in His eternal resurrected body as Lord and Savior. He is the eternal One who has been from Everlasting (Isa. 7:14, 9:6-7, Mic. 5:1-2, Jn. 1:1-2, Heb. 1:8, Rev. 1:8-11, Ps. 90:2)

V. HIS MEDIATORIAL WORK

- A. Jesus reconciled us, and all of creation through His blood and work on the cross. Christ is the mediator who brought us to God. He is the bridge over the chasm that separated us from God by reason of being **“enemies in your mind by wicked works” (v.21)**.
- “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. And you, who were once alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight” (1:19-22)**
- B. The purpose of Christ’s mediatorial work, is to bring us together as His body (people) to **“present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight” (v.22)**. “Holy” *hagios*, means pure, a holy one. *Blameless*, means without spot, faultless, without blame. *“above reproach”*, means unaccused, unprovable.