

Let's Worship God

25th Feb. - 2nd March 2019
Colossians



Colossians

Monday - Colossians 1:15-20 - The Pre-Eminence of Christ

Verses 15 to 20 form a complete unity of thought and are the most beautiful expression of the pre-eminence of the Lord Jesus Christ in all things. Some have tried to suggest that this is an early Christian creed or even an early hymn. There is no reason, however, to suggest that this is anything other than the apostle Paul being overwhelmed when he considered the glory of the Lord and all that he had done for his people in salvation.

The passage falls very neatly into two sections which correspond to each other in their form - the same expressions are used and in the same order. The first part to show how Jesus Christ is pre-eminent over the created universe, and the second, his pre-eminence in the work of redemption.

There were those in the church in Colossae who were seeking to teach that the Lord Jesus Christ was not sufficient to meet all their needs & that they needed some special 'magical' wisdom to supplement what they had received through Christ. Paul shows them that the glory of Christ is far superior than anything else in the created universe

1. He is outside the created universe as the eternal image of the invisible God. He is God revealed in visible form to men (Col. 2:9) Because he is eternally the image of God he is said to be the 'firstborn of every creature'.

2. He is the one through whom the universe came into being. Everything created was created with reference to Jesus Christ and must serve his purpose - not only man, but the physical creatures and the very angels of heaven.

3. He is the only one who gives meaning to the universe. There is a unity and purpose in the seeming chaos of nature and history because all things are held together 'in him'.

Questions

1. What sort of things are we tempted to use to supplement what we have in Christ?
2. How do you think the chaos in the world serves the glory of Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that we have all we need in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17

Praise: Psalm 45 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Tuesday - Colossians 1:15-20; Ephesians 5:22-33 - Redemption

Paul continues to describe the supremacy of the Lord Jesus Christ by showing how he is not only pre-eminent over creation and providence, but, more importantly for the believer, over the whole work of redemption.

1. He is the king and head of His church. He is described as being the head organically and believers make up the body - the church. He is also the head governmentally - He rules as king over His church. This pre-eminence is related specifically to the resurrection from the dead. It is from Christ the head that the body, the church, receives its life and hope; as Jesus said 'because I live, you shall live also'. If He is the church's king and head it follows quite naturally that the church is to submit to Him in every aspect of its life and work.

2. The headship of the Lord Jesus Christ is by divine appointment. All that is necessary for the foundation and nurturing of the church has been vested in the Lord Jesus Christ. There is nothing that the church as a body or the believer as an individual needs that is not found in Christ. Paul wants those who were teaching that Christ alone was not sufficient to realise their error and to exalt Christ alone.

3. It is only in Jesus Christ that there can be reconciliation with God. Before the fall there was harmony and unity in the created universe; there was nothing to harm or destroy. Through the work of Christ on the cross, sin has been conquered, peace has been made and harmony restored. From his exalted position at the right hand of God the crucified and risen Lord Jesus rules the universe for the benefit of His own blood bought people, and for the glory of the sovereign God.

Questions

1. How can the kingship of Christ be seen in your life?
2. Why did Paul focus attention of the supremacy of Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the supremacy of Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17

Praise: Psalm 46 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Wednesday -Colossians 1:13-23 - A Glorious Salvation

The reconciliation of which Paul had been speaking was not just an abstract theory, it had become a reality in the lives of those in Colossae who had been born again by the Spirit of God. Paul wants them to realise just what a wonderful and glorious thing had happened to them.

1. He reminds them what they were. There are three things that characterised the former way of life of these Colossian Christians, and indeed of every man or woman on this earth:

a. They were alienated from God. They had no relationship with God and knew nothing of who he really is. Eph. 2:12,13.

b. They were hostile to God in the very disposition of their minds and hearts. They were not just indifferent to God, they hated him! Rom. 1:18 - 23.

c. They did wicked things. Even the very best things that the unbeliever may do are sinful and thus hateful to God.

2. He reminds them of what they are now. Through the work of Christ on the cross they have been brought into a living relationship of love and fellowship with the holy God. They are no longer strangers but members of the family of God.

3. He reminds them of the purpose of their redemption. They have been reconciled to God so that they can be presented to the holy and sovereign God without the slightest stain of sin or corruption. This is looking forward to the time when the believer will see Christ in glory and will be changed into his glorious likeness. During the time that he is here on the earth nevertheless, the child of God is to show that he has been reconciled by living a life that is separate from sin and dedicated to God.

4. He reminds them of the need to persevere in the faith. A true believer can never fall away, but it is perseverance that demonstrates the genuineness of professed faith.

Questions

1. Why did Paul wanted to remind the believers of how they were?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all God has done for you.

2. Use prayer points from your congregation.

3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17

Praise: Psalm 47 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Thursday - Colossians 1:24-27; 1 Peter 1:24-27 - Identification

Paul speaks in v. 23 of the gospel that was being preached to the very ends of the world and of which he had been made a minister. Paul here refers to himself, or rather to his ministry and uses two words that characterize his ministry, suffering and rejoicing. It is significant that the first word of this section is 'now'. Paul was writing during a period of imprisonment when he was actually suffering discomfort and pain, yet he was able to write that he rejoiced in suffering now.

1. Identification with Christ in Suffering - There is some difficulty about what is meant by the words 'fill up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions'. It obviously doesn't mean that there was anything lacking in the atoning value of the sacrifice of Christ, neither does it mean that good works or suffering can be or need to be added to the merits of Christ (Col. 2:14; Jn. 19:30; Heb. 10:11-14): The meaning is rather that:

a. The sufferings of the believer are a part of the sufferings of Christ Jn. 15:18-21

b. The enemies of Christ are never satisfied, and as they can no longer afflict Him, they persecute His people instead. Mark 10:25; Acts 9:4,5. The suffering that was being endured was for the good of the church, especially in the context of Paul's ministry of evangelisation.

2. Identification with Christ in Service - Just as the Lord Jesus Christ was the servant of God, so was Paul in the calling he received.

3. Identification with Christ in Glory - To know 'Christ in you' is the only genuine 'hope of glory'. All other expectations or all other hopes for everlasting glory are doomed to failure. It is only as man experiences, in this life, the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ within that he can have the assurance of life everlasting in the presence of God. Identification with Christ on earth is the guarantee of identification in glory.

Questions

1. How can we show to others that we are identified with Christ in service?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would be identified with Christ.

2. Use prayer points from your congregation.

3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17

Praise: Psalm 48 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Friday - Colossians 1:24-29 - The Christian Ministry

Paul had spoken of the message that had been preached throughout the whole earth to Jew and Gentile alike - the true mystery of God in contrast to the spurious 'mysteries' of the false teachers; he now explains exactly what his ministry involved.

Paul was in no doubt about the theme of the Christian ministry:

1. It is a message about a person. It is not a system of doctrine, nor an outlining of moral principles, but the setting forth of the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. It deals with the types and shadows of the Old Testament, the prophecies that foretold his coming and his work, the facts of his life, death and resurrection, the salvation that that comes through him alone and the consequences of his work in the lives of men and women.

2. It is a message that is to be proclaimed. The facts about the Lord Jesus Christ are not points for debate and discussion; to be considered alongside the lives and teaching of other religious leaders, they are facts that are to be declared as a herald declares the words of the one who has sent him. 'A messenger's virtue is to say exactly what he has been told, and to say it in such a way that the people to whom he has to carry it cannot but hear and understand it'. (Alexander Maclaren).

3. It is a 'common' message. Paul wants the believers to know that the message he preached was not just his but was the same one proclaimed by all the apostles and other ministers of the gospel. There are not many truths but only Christ who is the truth. Paul knew and warned the church that if anybody preached any other gospel than the one he proclaimed, that person would be cursed by God. Gal. 1:8

Questions

1. What practical steps can you take to improve your listening to the Word of God?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for your minister.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17

Praise: Psalm 49 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Colossians

Saturday - Colossians 1:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 - Preaching of the Word

After the apostle Paul had spoken to the Colossians about the theme of the Christian ministry, he goes on to speak to them about the methods that were to be used in this ministry, and the glorious objective that it had.

The two concepts of teaching and admonishing are very often linked in the ministry of the apostle Paul, Rom. 15:2,3; Rom. 15:7; 2 Cor. 8:7-9. For Paul there could never be teaching that was not applied, neither could there be admonition that was not rooted and grounded in Biblical doctrine. The preaching of the gospel is both educational, in that it teaches men and women the truth about God, man, sin, and Christ, and it is also personal and practical in that it applies the truths of the gospel to the conscience and specifies the duties imposed upon man by that truth. One of the marks of a truly gospel ministry is the combination of the clear teaching of Bible truth and the faithful application of that truth to the hearers.

The glorious objective of the preaching of the gospel is to bring men and women and boys and girls into a relationship of love with the almighty God through the Lord Jesus Christ. A person can only be described as a truly whole person when he is presented in perfect holiness before the throne of the living and true God.

Through the preaching of the Word those who believe are brought into a new relationship with the triune God and through the same Word, they are being constantly sanctified until that day when they will be transformed into the very likeness of Christ.

No wonder then, that Paul was prepared to toil and labour to achieve this glorious end, recognising that the power to undertake such a task came alone from God.

Questions

1. What do you do when the preaching of the Word brings an admonishment to you?
2. How should you pray for those who preach the Word?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17

Praise: Psalm 50 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced for the RP Global Alliance
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