

JESUS IS ENOUGH!!!

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

Who Is Christ?

Many ask the question, “How do I make Jesus Lord of my life?” We need to understand that we do not ‘make’ Jesus Lord of our life, He is already Lord of all! What we need to do is **submit** to His Lordship. This will not happen simply because we ‘decide’ to ‘just do it’ because even believers are prone to sinful conduct and thoughts. In order to be obedient, we must rely on the power provided to us by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

The false teachers in Colossae, like the false teachers of our own day, denied the significance of Jesus. They dethroned Him by giving Him prominence but not preeminence meaning they did not make Jesus supreme in their thinking or in their lives. In the Gnostics’ philosophy, Jesus Christ was one of many emanations that proceeded from God and through which men could reach God. Emanation is one of those ‘big’ words that can lead us astray since the Gnostics were basically saying that Jesus was not God. Paul wanted to make sure that the Colossians were confident in their belief that Jesus is God. Jesus’ words are recorded in ***John 10:30 (ESV)***³⁰ *I and the Father are one.*”

Read Colossians 1:12-13 (ESV)¹² *giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.*¹³ *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son*

The Colossians feared the unseen forces of darkness. Fearing darkness does not necessarily involve the occult. Maybe you live in fear of what is ahead of you next. Maybe you are fearful of your finances, your relationships, fearful for your children. How often do we give preeminence to Jesus who is Lord of All so that He can separate the light from darkness in our lives? We read in ***Matthew 22:41-42 (ESV)***⁴¹ *Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question,*⁴² *saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.”* The Pharisees knew that the Christ, the coming Messiah, would be a descendent of David but they missed the fact that their Messiah would be God Himself.

Christians recognize that Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords. But, we often downgrade the supremacy of Christ to a time in the future when in fact we should acknowledge that Jesus is Lord of all now! Just like the Colossians, we are surrounded by those who attack the very supremacy of Christ. It is often subtle and many times filled with talk about God, but when the question is asked: What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" The answer won't always be: He is King of kings and Lord of lords. Some will answer Jesus was a good man. Some will crown Jesus as a prophet. Others will be sure that Jesus is only one of many ways to heaven.

However, when we ‘know that we know’ that because of Jesus we share in the inheritance of the saints of lights, we need not fear the domain of darkness. To be ‘in Christ’ means we have accepted His sacrifice as payment for our own sin. We have been transferred from the domain of darkness into the kingdom of the Light. We leave our fears with Jesus, the Son of the Living God. Let’s read Jesus’ words.

Read John 8:12 (ESV) ¹² *Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

Jesus not only rules the Kingdom of Light, Jesus is our Redeemer.

Colossians 1:14 (ESV) ¹⁴ *in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

The Old Testament contains many ‘pictures’ that are more fully revealed in the New Testament. I love the Old Testament story of Ruth and Boaz. Since an Israelite could sell himself, his family, or his land in cases of poverty, the kinsman-redeemer was provided to protect the clan. Boaz, a near kinsman of Naomi (Ruth's mother-in-law), acted as a redeemer in accordance with Israelite law, and married Ruth. In the New Testament God is the "Kinsman" who redeems us from darkness. Jesus, God the Son, became like us in every respect. Jesus became part of the human family for the purpose of being the Kinsman who **redeems us**.

Read Colossians 1:15-17 (ESV) ¹⁵ *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.* ¹⁶ *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.* ¹⁷ *And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

Who is the Christ? *He is the image of the invisible God.* I have always loved this description of Jesus. Today, we are at least somewhat familiar with facial recognition technology. Even some cell phones recognize their owners’ faces these days. I am told that new software developed by Facebook can score 97.25% on matching faces. Paul tells the Colossians that Jesus *is the image of the invisible God*. The face of Jesus matches the face of God 100%. Why? Because Jesus is God. As Jesus walked the earth as a Man, He did not skew the image of God. He reflected it. We read in **Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)** 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. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.*

Who is the Christ? *The firstborn of all creation.* One philosophy at that time was called the demiurge, and it held that God created a creature just beneath Him; then that creature created a creature beneath him; then that creature created a creature beneath him. In this philosophy, Jesus was just one of those creatures. Although there was a point in history that God took on bodily form, Jesus still existed before anything else was created. Paul is reminding the Colossians that Jesus Christ is the Creator of all things – not the created. Paul declares: *by him all things were*

created, in heaven and on earth. I believe that with all my heart. Firstborn simply means of first importance, of first rank **John 1:1-2 (ESV)** ¹ *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.*

Verse after verse in the Creation Story we see the words *God said*. Then in the New Testament we read in **John 1:14 (ESV)** ¹⁴ *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.* The Word is God revealed to us through Jesus.

Who is the Christ? *In him all things hold together* - Warren Wiersbe relates the story of a guide taking a group of people through an atomic laboratory and explaining how all matter was composed of rapidly moving electric particles. The tourists studied models of molecules and were amazed to learn that matter is made up primarily of space. During the question period, one visitor asked, "If this is the way matter works, what holds it all together?" For that, the guide had no answer. But the Christian has the only answer: Jesus Christ! The Bible says: *In him all things hold together.* And holding all things together goes far beyond holding the universe together. When we make Christ Lord of all, He will hold our lives together. When problems arise we do not need to feel like the only answer is to run out screaming. We are held by the all-sufficient Christ who will take care of us.

Read Colossians 1:18-20 (ESV) ¹⁸ *And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.* ¹⁹ *For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,* ²⁰ *and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

Who is the Christ? *He is the head of the body* - in God's Word, the Body of Christ is the church. Church means "called out" ones. You may have found a church building to attend but have you been brought into the Body of Christ? Verse 20 speaks to how through Jesus we are reconciled to God. Have you been purchased with His blood? Sin separates us from God. It is through Christ alone that we are brought together with God meaning reconciled. Is it possible that you still trying to reconcile yourself by deeds and good works?

The church is the redeemed of all the ages – not just our generation. When Paul describes Christ as the Head of the Body, we get the picture that Jesus should have first place in the church. The head directs the body not the body directing the head. There is an old saying about "running like a chicken with its head cut off." A chicken without a head can run for a few moments but the direction is pointless and the run is quickly over. Sometimes, the local church runs like chickens with our heads cut off instead of letting the head which is Christ direct and control the body.

Who is the Christ? *He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead.* The Apostle John also describes Jesus as *the firstborn from the dead* in **Revelation 1:5**. The mention of the *firstborn* relates to birth order. This is a concept of great significance in the Old Testament, where the

firstborn son inherited his father's place as head of the family. Because Jesus is the *firstborn from the dead*, He is the Head of the family of God. Others have been raised from the dead. In fact, it was Jesus who raised most of them. However, Jesus is the first to be raised in a glorified body. Jesus the *firstborn from the dead* is the Beginning of many saints who are going to be raised in glorified bodies on the basis of His resurrection when Christ returns for His family.

Who is the Christ? *In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.* Dr. Paul Adams explains, "Everything that identifies God was in Jesus Christ. So the great divine characteristics of perfect love, absolute authority and infinite power were and are in Jesus. Jesus was not just a spokesman or representative of God (like a prophet), or an educator of God's ideas (like a teacher), or a demonstrator of good living (like a mentor): all the fullness of God was and is His rightful property."

Who is the Christ? The term Christ is a title; it is the New Testament equivalent of the Old Testament term Messiah and means anointed one. It is applied to Jesus as the anointed one who delivers the elect from their sin. Jesus alone is the Christ. As the Christ, He has three offices: Prophet, Priest, and King. Jesus Christ is the Savior, the Creator, the Head of the church, and the Beloved of the Father. He is eternal God. and in our lives He deserves to have preeminence.? Jesus is the Christ who is **Lord of All!**