

## **“Christ’s Preeminence Declared”**

Colossians 1:19-23

### **GOD IS REVEALED IN HIM. Colossians 1:19**

- **For in Him all the fullness of GOD was pleased to dwell. v.19**
- **“fullness”** Gk. *plērōma* - “the sum total of all the divine power and attributes”.

*“All the attributes and activities of God-His Spirit, word, wisdom and glory-are disclosed in Him”.*

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- **“pleased”** Gk. *eudokeō* - “to choose, determined”. (NASB good pleasure)
- **“dwell”** Gk. *katoikeō*- “to be at home permanently”, Ref. Psalm 68:16.
- The Tabernacle, Ref. Ex. 29:45,46 & the Temple, I Kings 8:10,11 represented God’s presence.

*“Just as Christ was already the image of the invisible God before and at the time of the first creation v. 15, so in the beginning of the new creation, the “fullness” of deity “dwelt in Him”, so that He is the perfect representation of God in bodily form v. 19; Colossians 2:9. It is important to clarify theologically that it is not God the Father’s divine nature that gives the Son his divine nature when he became incarnate, but they are both fully divine from eternity past”.*

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### **RECONCILIATION IS THROUGH HIM. Colossians 1:20**

- **And through Him to reconcile to Himself all things,... v. 20a**
- 1st creation. **v.16** → 2nd creation. **v.19,20**
- Q: Who else could? NO ONE. Ref. Psalm 96:4-6; Job 38-39.
- **making peace by the blood of the cross v. 20b**
- Divine plan from all eternity. Ref. Acts 2:23,24.

### **REDEMPTION IS ACCOMPLISHED IN HIM. Colossians 1:21-23**

- **And you, who were once alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds v. 21**
- We are a law unto ourselves. Ref. Genesis 3:6 NO one seeks to be reconciled. Ref. Romans 3:10-19 Our minds are hostile. Ref. Romans 8:7-8.  
*“What your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your God”. Martin Luther*
- **He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him. v. 22**
- No longer aliens, rather saints. Ref. Ephesians 2:19
- **If indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting ....v.23**
- Redemption is eternal. Ref. Hebrews 9:12; John 10:27-30.

## APPLICATION

1. If Christ is the image of God (1:15) and all the fullness of God dwells in him (1:19), then the Colossians will not find fullness in anything else (2:10).
2. If all the "things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities" were created by him (1:16), he brings to naught all supposed threats posed by these powers.
3. God's plan from before creation was to reconcile all things through Christ, and that design has not been revised. The Colossians do not need a supplemental salvation plan and cannot attain this peace and reconciliation through heavenly visions or rigorous asceticism (2:16-23). Instead, attention to these things may disqualify them.
4. Christ is supreme over all, but that supremacy manifests itself most visibly in the church. Christ is the head of the body, the church (1:18), and those who lose connection with the head, "from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow" (2:19), will wither and die. One can cut off any extremity of the body except the head and still live.
5. The supremacy of Christ over the whole cosmos assures believers of the sufficiency of Christ. Therefore, they should not allow their hope in Christ, the firstborn of the dead, to be shaken when it is challenged or denigrated by others.
6. All who identify with Christ's exile and His restoration experience reconciliation to God.

**Romans 6:6-12** *"We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace".*

7. If Christ sustains the entire universe, then Christ can sustain individual believers.