

07-28-13

Title: Jesus Is...

Colossians 1:18

Paul has thanked God for His work among the Colossians
He has prayed they would be filled with the knowledge of His will
to live lives worthy of the Lord

The prayer ends with a statement regarding God's amazing work
through Jesus the Messiah – His qualifying, His deliverance and
His transference

Now begins a hymn – different from what we think as a hymn

Points to the unique status of Christ

This section will serve as the basis for the future of
this book

Jesus is the center and focus of the whole Bible

OT – the preparation for His coming

Gospels – present Him as God in human flesh, come into
the world to save sinners

Acts – the message of salvation in Christ begins to spread
through the world

Epistles – the theology of Messiah's work and the
personification of Messiah in His Body, the church

Revelation – Jesus is on the throne reigning as King of
kings and Lord of lords

The verses we are looking at today

Most concentrated of the whole Book

It leaves no doubt as to Jesus' identity

It is vital for proper understanding of true belief

Paul is battling with problems in Colossians understanding of Jesus

Jesus is the focus of this book (more than any other)

Many heresies have developed and continue today b/c of
inaccurate understanding of who Jesus is

Some old heresies

Eutychianism, and Nestorianism – both 5th century
Condemned in Synod of Ephesus – 431
Council of Chalcedon – 405
Modern times – Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses

Theological terms connected are
The incarnation
The hypostatic union

Important to understand Jesus' humanity
Jesus' deity
Jesus' sufficiency
He is all that is needed for salvation
There is no mystical knowledge/information needed
Jesus is all that is needed

Jesus is all there is, all that is necessary
Understanding His deity is the beginning
Jesus is God, fully God, completely God

It is important for us to understand who Jesus is...
It is important to understand b/c of the atonement
When we don't understand who Jesus is...
We can bring into question His atonement
The salvation that only He provides

Jesus is 100% God, and 100% man
Must be completely both
God to make a perfect sacrifice
Man for identification with us – an acceptable sacrifice

Verses 15-17 main focus

Jesus is God – fully and completely God
God

Colossians 1:15

There were those in Paul's day (still present today)

Said Jesus wasn't God

Almost, next best thing

Said He was a created being

Jesus is God, not created, not slightly less, not even just better than us – He is God

God's image

Humans also, made in the image of God

Humans are rational (sometimes ☺), they have personality

We have intellect, will and emotions

We are not in God's image morally – we sin

We are not omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent or immutable (unchanging)

We are human, not divine

The image was marred in the fall

Unlike people, Jesus is perfect

He is the absolutely accurate image of God

He has always been this way

He is the exact representation of God's nature

He is in the very form of God

He who has seen Jesus has seen the Father

The invisible God became visible in Jesus

Jesus is the representation of God

Jesus is the manifestation of God

He is the full, final, complete revelation of God

Jesus made this claim (made many mad)

Bible makes this claim (many times)

If we think any less than this

Leads to error and lies

Jesus truly represents God

Jesus truly reveals God and His will

Jesus is truly God

Firstborn of all creation

- ...*the firstborn of all creation.*

From this verse some have said Jesus was created

If He is the first born
Need to understand what this means...

Firstborn can refer to firstborn chronologically

All know firstborns are best ☺

Not what it means here

Here it is first in position or rank

Psalms 89:27

*27 "I also shall make him My firstborn,
The highest of the kings of the earth.*

He is firstborn – He is king of the earth

Revelation 1:5

*5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the
dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.*

Not first person raised from dead chronologically

He is the preeminent One of all raised

He is the highest in rank – not the first created

Just said **Jesus is** the perfect, complete image of God

He could not be saying here – He is created

Doesn't fit, doesn't make sense

He is the preeminent One

Jesus is unique and incomparable

Jesus is the image of God, the firstborn of all creation

He is God – fully and completely

He is firstborn

Creator

Colossians 1:16-17

There are those who said, and say today, Jesus was created

He was first thing created

So He is the very best, but created nonetheless

If so, He is not God

He is God – His exact representation, He is higher than all creation

And... He created all things
In the heavens and on earth
The visible and the invisible

Patrick O'Boyle recalls the late-1940s Hyde Park "Speakers' Corner" appearances of Frank Sheed, who could be devastating with hecklers. Once, after Sheed had described the extraordinary order and design to be seen in the universe, a persistent challenger retorted by pointing to all the world's ills, and ended shouting, "I could make a better universe than your God!" "I won't ask you to make a universe," Sheed replied. "But would you make a rabbit--just to establish confidence?"

Jesus is God and He created the whole universe
He created all things

- ...*whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities*

All of these are subordinate to Christ

Thrones, dominions, rulers or authorities

Likely reference to angelic beings

Using to show that all beings are under the Messiah's universal rule – for He created all things

Even the angels and their order

Jesus is not an angel

He is the Creator of angels

He is above the angels

The angels worship Him

They are under His authority

- ... *created through Him and for Him.*

Through Him shows us what God used (He used Jesus) to accomplish His creative acts

May also have reference to the wisdom involved in God's act of creation

For him – the goal of creation is the Messiah

The continued purpose of creation is the Messiah

Jesus restores creation to its intended state

Pointing to reconciliation achieved through the work of Messiah

- *He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*

Jesus is supreme in time

Supreme in rank, the sustainer of all things

He is *before* all things can have 2 meanings in Greek

It can denote time – He is before all things

Also can denote rank – He is above all things

Likely both are intended

He is before all things and above all things

The Messiah is the goal of creation

He is also prior to all creation

He is supreme over all creation

- *...held together*

Jesus is not only the creator

He is also the sustainer of all creation

By His word all things hold together

All things owe their continuous existence to Him

Jesus made what is visible

Jesus made what is invisible

Jesus made the angels and they are under His control

Jesus is the highest of all things

Jesus holds all things together

Jesus is God

Therefore...

The Head

Colossians 1:18a

18 He is also head of the body, the church

Shifting here from cosmos to the church

From creation to redemption

Many illustrations in Bible describe the church

Family, kingdom, vineyard, flock, building, a bride

Also the body

The church is a body – Messiah is the head of the body

Not head as in – of a company

Head of a living organism

Inseparably tied together

Every part controlled by the head

Every part directed by the head

Every part deriving life from the head

Jesus is supreme over the community of believers

In 1933, Protestant Christians in Germany faced pressure to "Aryanize" the Church, expel Jewish Christians from the ordained ministry and adopt the Nazi "Führer Principle" as the organizing principle of church government. In general, most churches succumbed to these pressures, and many Christians embraced them willingly. The pro-Nazi "German Christian" movement became a force in the church. They glorified Adolf Hitler as a "German prophet" and preached that racial consciousness was a source of revelation alongside the Bible. But there were some Christians in Germany who opposed the advancement of Nazi ideology within the church. From May 29-31, 1934, these Christians met in Barmen, Germany and produced the Barmen Declaration. It reaffirmed their faith through six confessional statements of Christ's Lordship. The first confessional statement is: "Jesus Christ, as he is attested to us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God whom we have to hear, and whom we have to trust and obey in life and in death. We reject the false doctrine that there could be areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ but to other lords, areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him."

Jesus, and only **Jesus is** to be identified as the head

He is in the position of authority and power
He is also the Supplier of growth and nourishment

Jesus is the head, the sovereign over the body

The church here refers to the universal church
All who belong to Christ – the saints

The Beginning

Colossians 1:18b ...and He is the beginning, ...

*Remember as a kid – my parents helped start a church
Met in library of school – set up chairs, piano, etc...
Since then – long time ago – have built building
Even now when I drive by the building – which they didn't have
I have a feeling of pride – I had a part in that
Many of you had a part in the beginning of this fellowship
Reason to be proud
You have a stake in this, a part of this, a connection
As believers we should all have that connection*

Jesus is the beginning of the church, the universal church, by His resurrection

Does not imply that He had a beginning

Jesus is God – no beginning and no end

Rather, He is the most significant, the supreme

Jesus is the origin of the church

Jesus gives life to His church

His sacrificial death/resurrection provided our new life

He has the chief position

The highest rank

He is the beginning

He is the originator

He is Firstborn

- ...*firstborn from the dead*

Of all those raised from the dead,
Of all those who will be raised from the dead

Jesus is the highest rank

Jesus is the first to rise from the dead

Not only is He the first to rise from the dead

He is the initiator of the new age, the new life

Found only in Him who is first over all

His resurrection shows all the power of His death on the cross

The word raised is implied here –

Firstborn raised from the dead

This is the center of all of our hope

Jesus' resurrection

He is First place

- ...*so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.*

B/c of Jesus' death and resurrection

He has first place in everything

He will become supreme in all things

He is supreme in all things

There is, and should be nothing more important than Jesus

Worshipping Him

Proclaiming His Gospel

Growing in our knowledge of Him

There is nothing else

There is no one else

Conclusion

Because Jesus is God

What should our response be to Him?

We are sinful creatures, separated from Him

Yet, He came to earth and died in our place

Fully God and fully Man

His offering was acceptable, His offering was sufficient
Have you repented and trusted Him as your Savior...

Questions to consider today...

What are you living for?

Is it your career?

Is your life all about travel and adventure?

Does it revolve around going to the river, the fishing hole, the beach or the mountains?

Perhaps sports is at the top of your list, or shopping, or even spirituality...

What is the bull's eye you find yourself aiming at?

B/c Jesus is God, the head, the beginning...

He should be what we aim for – b/c of who He is, there is nothing else...

Is He Lord of your life?

Have you surrendered to Him?

Is He the head in your life?

Is Jesus first place in this church?

Is Jesus in first place in your life?

Benediction:

Philippians 2:9-11

9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Sermon outline

07-28-13

Colossians 1:15-18

Jesus is...

G_____

The H_____

The B_____

He is F_____

He is F_____ place