

Wednesday in the Word

Digging Deeper

October 28, 2020

Colossians 1:12-17

The Supremacy of Christ

What gets you down? What controls your fears and worries. The strongest among us must admit we allow life to get in the way of believing God. In today's text, verse 13 we are told that we have been delivered from the power of darkness and translated in to the Kingdom of Christ. The phrase for deliverance and translation is "rhuomai kai methistēmi" which is to be "rescued, caught in a new current and carried away". We were in a mad downstream river, rushing into spiritual darkness when Jesus dove in and saved us bringing us back upstream into the safety of the Eternal Kingdom of God. If we were to succumb to our fears it would have been while we were drowning in sin. We are now safely on board the rescue vessel, moving in His direction and being kept safe by the irresistible power of the Holy Spirit. (2 Corinthians 1:22, Ephesians 1:13, 4:30) We no longer need to fear life's dilemmas. Do you doubt your eternal security? If so, then you doubt God. He keeps us saved. We don't and can't. You can't sin your way out of Jesus' safety. Why then do we fear the issues of life? No one wants death, illness, pain or suffering but those things are trivial in light of the Greatness of our God. The key to living fearlessly and seeing life from the right perspective is looking to and trusting our Savior. But who is He? Does He really have the power and ability to save us and secure our eternal life? Is He able to give us daily joy and peace? Our strength for life does not lie in our ability to endure but in Whom we rest. Who, indeed, is Jesus Christ?

This question alone separates christianity from every other human belief system, be they religion, philosophy or myth. What a person believes about Jesus determines his eternal future as well as his quality of life. God's Word clearly provides the answers to our faith questions without treading on our free will. Bold statements are made throughout the bible and one of the best is right here in today's passage. Even among some "Christians" as well as other bible based religions, the true nature of the Christ is often misunderstood or mischaracterized. Let's dig deeper into Colossians 1:12-17. We will explore beyond that next week.

Few believers would dispute the Father/Son connection seen in verses 12-13. This relationship fills the Word of God but notice, in the following verses, the expansion of the concept that has divided so many. John 1:1,14, Colossians 2:9, John 10:30, Hebrews 1:3, Isaiah 9:6. These are but a sample of the many testimonies of the complex deity of the One we have consistently worshipped as Almighty God. The divisions that have developed throughout the world concerning these scriptures apparently existed in the Colossian's time as well. Thus Paul addressed the church to bring clarity.

What can we reason for truth in verses 15-17? Simple facts. 1) Jesus is the Image of the Invisible God. 2) He is the Firstborn above all creation. 3) He created all things. 4) All things include heaven, earth, visible and invisible, thrones, dominions, principalities and powers. 5) These all were created by Him AND for Him. 6) He is before all things. 7) All things consist by Him.

Let's take this apart.

- 1) The Image of God; Exodus 20:1-5. The first 2 of the 10 Commandments clearly state God will not allow any other god to be worshiped or esteemed in His place. He will not permit any image of Him or anything else to usurp His praise. He will not allow any to bow down to another god. (While God allows all this by the heathen, He will not tolerate it among His people). Jesus, having kept these laws of God would have broken all these rules unless He, Himself were God. John 1:18, 9:38, Matthew 8:1-2, Matthew 21:15-16, Hebrews 1:6, Philippians 2:10, Revelation 5:8-14, 7:9-17. It is clear to see Jesus accepts worship as God. He and the Father are One. Since no one has seen God at any time it is only right that we have His perfect Image in the Person of Jesus Christ.
- 2) The Firstborn. Prōtotokos. Foremost in time, place, order and importance. God became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus was truly "born" but pre-existed all things. His Flesh and Blood gave Him the right to die for our sin yet He exists in eternal past, present and future. Revelation 1:5, Romans 8:29, Hebrews 1:6.
- 3) The Creator. John 1:3, 10, Hebrews 1:2, John 17:5, Genesis 1:1, So Who is the Creator? God or Jesus? Yes....
- 4) All Things. The list is exhaustive and conclusive. Every speck in the universe was created by Jesus. From nothing. Barah in the Hebrew. He made you and everything that gives you grief or worries or controls you. Is He able to put it all in order? Romans 8:28.
- 5) By Him and for Him. Revelation 4:11. Ultimately all this is for one purpose. To glorify Christ. Psalm 150. The final Psalm glorifies the Creator. Notice the sound of our breath is His Very Name. Luke 19:37-40. Get this and you have it all.
- 6) Before All Things. John 8:56-59. Revelation 1:8, 21:6, 22:13, Isaiah 41:4, 44:6, 48:12. Genesis 1:1. Before (Pro) can mean before in time or in importance. He is both. Notice in all these references we see both the equal deity of God and Christ as well as the full oneness of them. This alone separates us from EVERY other belief and religion even within so called christianity.
- 7) Consist. Sunistēmi in the Greek. To set together or constitute. Science describes 4 fundamental forces that exist between particles of matter. They are understood only mathematically. None can truly describe the source of the forces. Many scientists disagree on all this. No surprise. They're all wrong anyway. Jesus literally holds the universe together. He is even now actively maintaining the interaction of all matter. One day He will let all things loose. That word is "luo". It means to loosen, break up, melt or dissolve. 2 Peter 3:10-12.

Jesus IS all the power and control of the universe. He is God among us. He dictates the workings of all things through the immensity of His Holy Spirit. When we doubt Him we are believing what we see and forgetting the unseen. 2 Corinthians 4:18. Why should we fear circumstances? Why should problems worry or upset us? We belong to Him. We are members of His family. He loves us to the uttermost. Rest in the Lord and give all your concerns over to Him. 1 Peter 5:6-7.