

COLOSSIANS

Life in our supreme & sufficient Savior

Colossians – Life in our Supreme & Sufficient Savior

Review of Background

- Occasion: False teachers have promised ritual ways to experience God’s presence and blessing (mysticism/legalism). Paul’s correction in the letter is that those who have trusted in Jesus can already experience the fullness of God’s presence through what has been provided already for the believer in Jesus.
- Theme verse: “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” (Colossians 2:9-10)
- Theme of the Class: Life in our Supreme & Sufficient Savior

Class Outline

- Part 1: The Preeminence of Christ in Christian Thinking (1-3:4)
- Part 2: The Preeminence of Christ in Christian Living (3:5-4:6)

Lesson 3 – Colossians 1:15-23

Jesus is preeminent so live a reconciled life!

- I. Jesus is supreme over all creation (1:15-17).
 - A. He is the Divine Ruler (15).
 - B. He is the Glorious Creator (16).

- C. He is the Eternal Sustainer (17).
- II. Jesus is supreme over the church (1:18-20).
- A. He is head of the body, the church (18a).
 - B. He is the preeminent founder of the church (18b).
 - C. He is the fullness of God in the church (19).
 - D. He makes peace with God for all (20).
- III. Live a reconciled life (1:21-23).
- A. Remember that we were enemies (21).
 - B. Rejoice that we are reconciled (22).
 - C. Realize that we will be perfected (23a).
 - D. Respond by being faithful (23b).

Application

Jesus is supreme over all creation.

- *He is the Divine Ruler over all - We must submit to Him in our wills. I let go of my desires and wants and take on His. What does He say I should be desiring? We must submit to Him in our plans. What does He want of me today? How will I respond when He adjusts my plans? We must submit to Him in our circumstances. What does He want to do in my life? What does He want to teach me? How would He use me to glorify Himself? We must submit to Him in our marriages. When I want to prove to my spouse that I'm right and he/she is wrong, I must submit to Jesus, who wants me to love my*

husband/wife. We must submit to Him in our church. When I would hold on to bitterness or anger. Even desiring to punish the one who hurt me, I must submit to Jesus, who wants me to forgive just as He has forgiven me.

- *He is the Glorious Creator of all* - He knows me. He knows every intricate detail. He made me, and I must reckon with that. Does the clay complain to the potter about how the potter made it? I must trust my Glorious Creator with the way He made me. He owns me. He made me and He owns me. I am His. I am His precious creation. Though He owned me, from the day of my conception, because of my rebellion against Him in sin, He had to purchase me back, with His blood. Creator giving His life for creature. “For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” (1 Corinthians 6:20) All that He made exists for His glory! So, we must glorify Him!
- *He is the Eternal Sustainer of all* - He sustains the universe, and He sustains us. We must trust the Eternal Sustainer to sustain us! When we feel like our lives are falling apart, remember we can trust Jesus to hold us together. In Him *all things* consist. That includes you, and that includes me.

Jesus is supreme over the church.

- *Jesus is the Head of our church* - We must submit to His authority in all things. We must follow His direction and purposes He has commanded us in His Word. We must come to Him for sustenance and care.
- *Jesus is the Founder of our church* - Is He preeminent in your life? Is *He* the reason you come to church? Is *He* the reason you sing? Is *He* the reason you fellowship with His people? Is *He* the reason you serve? Is *He* the reason you pay close attention during the preaching? Is *He* your hope for the future?
- *Jesus is the fullness of God in our church* - He must be central in our church. We gather together to fellowship around Him, to worship Him, to see His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.
- *Jesus makes peace with God for all* - This is what every soul longs for. This is what is wrong at the core of every person – no peace with God. This is the reason people flit from between temporary

pacifications. We've been doing it since we were babies with our pacifiers. We are just looking for peace with God! So, people turn to drinking, to drugs, to outbursts of wrath, violence, hatred, new age practices, Buddhism, and so on. In a hopeless search for peace. PEACE WITH GOD ONLY COMES THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST.

We must live a reconciled life.

- *Remember that we were enemies* - The reality is that we were estranged from God – even enemies of His! This ought to humble us. It ought to make us feel small and embarrassed. We were estranged and enemies of God – confirmed in our wicked acts against him.
- *Rejoice that we are reconciled* - All who have been reconciled can rejoice in the incredible change that God worked. He took us from the position of *opposition* to a position of peace. We were estranged enemies and He brought us near. We were rebellious adversaries and He made peace. We can rejoice in this! We recognize the great cost of our reconciliation and rejoice in what God has done.
- *Realize that we will be perfected* - Our reconciliation not only impacts our present condition, but it seals our future! The end is decided. We'll be presented fully sanctified before God. This doesn't mean that we won't sin after we get saved. Instead, this means that as a part of reconciliation, God has removed our sins, and given us the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Typically, we refer to this as our justification, but here it is related to our reconciliation. We can be at peace with God because we are sinless in Christ.
- *Respond by being faithful* - We must not stray from the gospel. We are grounded and steadfast in the truth of the word. We keep our eyes on its hope! There are so many things tempting us to doubt the sufficiency of the gospel, and to be moved away from the work of Christ on the cross.
 - Legalism – I have to do things a certain way in order to be good enough for God.
 - Sentimentalism – I have to feel a certain way about my faith.
 - Materialism – I find my hope and joy in my possessions.