

Last week we covered verses 12-18 of Colossians 1.

- In those verses Paul explained Jesus
- as the image of the invisible God
- and the firstborn over all creation
- **(meaning first in importance, not in time).**

He went on to say that all things were created by Jesus, both in heaven and on earth and Jesus is the one that holds all things together.

- Scripturally, Jesus was not
- the first raised from the dead.

First and Second kings both record

- someone raised from the dead.

The NT records several accounts

- of people being raised from the dead.

All of those raised from the dead

- had one thing in common with the exception of Jesus,
- they all died a second death.

1 Cor 15 that Jesus is the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep

In John 14 Jesus said to the disciples,

19 "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also.

- He used the present active indicative
- to show that I'm always alive.

Then Jesus said in the same verse, "but you will see Me."

- This is in the present tense
- indicating a continuing vision.

They (We) shall see His face, and His name shall be on their (our) foreheads.

Rev 22:4

Rev 1:18

18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

Col 1:19-23

19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight – 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

- Sometimes our bank accounts need reconciliation

Jesus came to reconcile us to God

- and to bring us into balance with God's righteousness.

2 Cor 5 says that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them.

Col 1:13-14

13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

- We must admit we are sinners before Jesus can be our Savior

He is the only way to salvation.

He is the image of God

To the world, Jesus is still in the tomb.

19 For it pleased the Father that in Him (Jesus) all the fullness should dwell,

Remember, Paul was cautioning the church about the false teachers, the Gnostics.

Gnostic teachers taught there was fullness in the many gods they worshipped

- and that Jesus was just one of many.
- There are an estimated 4,000 plus religions out there.

That is a lot of religions trying to find their way to God.

God made it easy for us to know the way:

Only Christianity teaches that God has already done the work for us.

The Gnostics worshipped many gods.

But Paul countered their belief system by saying

- all of God's attributes,
- rest in the fullness of Christ.

Paul used the word "fullness" in Colossians

- to remind the church that
- there is nothing lacking in Christ

He said in Phil 2:6 that Jesus, who being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

John 3:35 says the Father loves the son, and has given all things into His hand.

Col 2:9

9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

We understand and we believe it to be true that the fullness dwells in Jesus.

And it's in Him that the fullness dwells.

Dwell - "to be at home permanently."

Ps 27:4

4 One thing I have desired of the Lord,
That will I seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord
All the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of the Lord,
And to inquire in His temple.

20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

(To reconcile speaks of a change of relationship from hostility to harmony.)

Reconciling is bringing relationships together

- that have been estranged

Verse 20 in the living bible which is paraphrased says that God cleared a path for everything to come to Him.

Rom 5:10

10 when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son,

Paul said in Corinthians about us reconciling with one another:

2 Cor 5:18-19

18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, (God has reconciled us to Himself,) and has **GIVEN US the ministry of reconciliation**,

He charged us with reconciling with others.

Sin makes reconciliation on our own impossible.

So God reconciles us to Himself, then He gives us the ministry of reconciliation.

Then the Lord also wants us to be ambassadors**How can you be an ambassador for Christ practically?**

- 1) Let your life reflect Christ
- 2) Make yourself available

There are four things the work of Jesus include, they are,

- 1) creation,
- 2) reconciliation
- 3) salvation
- 4) consummation

The work of Creation:

“By Him and in Him were all things created” (Colossians 1:16),
and “by Him all things consist (or are ‘held together’)” (Colossians 1:17).

The work of reconciliation:

“having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him (Jesus) to reconcile all things unto Himself (Father)” (Colossians 1:20),

The work of salvation:

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The work of consummation which is the ultimate end or finish:

Eph 1:10

10 And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.

God set the plan, and He put it into motion

People complicate the plan of God.

Are you an ambassador for Christ?
Maybe you've got your own hurdles to get over.

You may be at a roadblock in your life.

Those roadblocks and obstacles

- often hinder our relationship with the Lord
- which ultimately effect our relationship with others

Fortunately, God reaches out to us

- and reconciles us unto Himself

Japanese soldiers - some stayed in the jungles for a while after WWII thinking the war was still going.

The war is over and God has never been at war with us.

All too often in relationships we have the attitude that "you started it so you need end it!"

- In other words, you need to apologize to me.

When we have that selfish attitude, we need to take it to the Lord.

In Job chapter 9 he spoke of needing someone

- to mediate between him and the Lord,
- someone like him who understood his pain.

And in verses 32 & 33 Job said

Job 9:32-33

32 "For He is not a man, as I am,

That I may answer Him,

And that we should go to court together.

33 Nor is there any mediator between us,

Who may lay his hand on us both.

Since Jesus was a man He understands our problems,

And since He is God, He knows how to fix our problems.

And He's also an advocate according to 1 Jn 2:1

- and He's reconciled sinners to Himself

Paul says in verse 20 that God will reconcile all things to Himself.

This doesn't mean that all things good and bad will be reconciled to God.

- That's the doctrine of universalism.

That's not at all what Paul was saying

- What he is saying is that His creation
- is going to be reconciled to Him.

This reconciliation began at the Cross and will be complete at the sound of the seventh trumpet.

Rev 11:15

15 Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Col 1:21-22

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight —

We've probably each heard someone say at one time or another,

- "I'm not a bad person," or
- "God knows my heart."

Paul says we were once alienated and enemies.

David wrote:

Ps 58:3

3 The wicked are estranged from the womb;
They go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies.

Matt 15:8

8 "These people draw near to Me with their mouth,
And honor Me with their lips,
But their heart is far from Me.

Being alienated is to be permanently estranged from someone else.

Jesus said if you're not for me, you're against me.

James said if we're a friend of this world we're an enemy of God.

We were alienated but now we're liberated.

We've been reconciled to Christ.

Eph 2 says He made us alive who were dead in trespasses and sin.

Col 1:22

in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight —

Vs 22 in the NL:

Col 1:22

22 Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

What has the Lord reconciled us to?

- It's to be holy and blameless and
- to stand before Him without a single fault.

This is not our current standing

- but our future presentation in heaven

So we will be presented holy, blameless and without fault.

To be blameless is to be without a blemish.

- It's the total removal of sin and guilt.

Eph 1:4

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

In the OT when an animal was sacrificed

- it had to be free of birth defects

Jesus will present you above reproach or irreproachable:

- free from accusation in His sight.

Once you've been reconciled to God

- there is no charge that can be brought against you.

Col 1:23

23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

If - this isn't an expression of hope

- as if you'll have it one day,

- and lose it the next day

This is a conditional clause of the first class. **Paul was saying, if, and I believe you will.**

When the tempter approached Jesus he said:

Matt 4:3b

3 "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

Satan knew Jesus was the Son of God. What he meant was, "since You are the Son of God"

Paul believed the Colossians would continue in their faith.

- But it required a continuance.

Jesus told the believing Jews that if they continued in His word, they were truly His disciples. (hold on to)

What this comes down to is that you're not saved by continuing in the faith.

- But we continue in the faith
- thus proving that we are saved.

Then Paul says to be grounded and steadfast. We are to be planted firmly in the word of God and immovable.