

No more Chains Pt 2

Colossians 1:15-20

- Paul has begun this letter by sharing how much his companions and friends have been praying for this church of Colossi petitioning the Lord for them **to know God's will V9**, that they may **walk worthy of the Lord V10**, for them **to be strengthened with His might V11, to be patient and longsuffering V11**, and able **to go through suffering and keep our joy V11**. He finished this portion of the letter by reminding the church that their no longer in bondage having been delivered out of darkness and transported into the Kingdom of light, redeemed and forgiven.

V15-20

- **V15-18** in Chapter 1 Paul is explaining to the church "**the truth about Christ**" because the false teachers were very confused concerning creation and exactly Who Jesus was, so many of them taught that He was a manifestation of God but not really God, a creation of God, and therefore **elevated above humanity** but still **below Deity**, thus the question should we worship Him? This same confusion exists today even within the church, as you have some who will put Mary on a similar level as Jesus in worshipping her, others will claim He's an Angel, and still others who will say he was an expression of God, but in glory we'll only see the Father and not the Son.
- Paul sought to clear up the church's confusion Paul makes some profound statements about Jesus in this section that should leave no doubt about Who He is. **1st he declares Jesus as the creator** > that everything in the whole universe was **created by Him**, everything that is, had to **first come through Him**, and everything that exists, **exist for Him**. The term "**firstborn**" doesn't refer to time, but to place or status, Jesus was not the first being created, since He Himself is the Creator of all things. "**Firstborn**" simply means of first importance, or of first rank.
- An example of this is found in > **Ps 89:20,27**- in speaking of David he was neither Israel's first King, or his Father's firstborn son, yet he is named "**the firstborn**" it's speaking of rank and importance. Were also told that He created all things therefore He existed before all things, including the things in > **heaven-earth, visible-invisible, thrones-kingdoms, authorities-powers**, everything that ever was and that will ever be, is because of Jesus and no other.
- **2nd He also declares all things exist for Him** > meaning Jesus Christ is the sphere in which everything exist, the Agent through which they came into being, and the One for whom they were made. This is why the hope for all Christians should never lie in government, law makers, philosophies, or climate control, but only in Christ! Because He is before all things, and He holds all things together, therefore my hope and my trust is in Him, because He alone is in control.
- **3rd He also declares that Christ is Head of the Church** > the besides being the Lord of the universe He is head of the church, the source of the church from which all things flow. When He rose from the dead He became the example that we will rise from the dead and continue to live.

- This again shows the love Jesus has for us as He never asks us to do anything that He first has not done Himself, which is why He has double preeminence being first in creation and first in the Church, this is irrefutable truth for all those who sought to rob Jesus of His Deity, and make Him a created being instead of an exalted Lord and Savior, Who is God over all things Amen!
- **V19-20- Is 53:10-** says once it pleased the Father to “**bruise Him**” now it pleases the Father to that in Him all the fullness of God should dwell. “**Fullness**” denotes the totality of Divine powers and attributes, it simply means Jesus was and is full God, Paul repeats this in **2:9**, saying He also possessed this even in bodily form, when He came as a human being it didn’t stop Him from being God, as He simply subjected Himself to the frailties of man but never stopped being God.
- **V20** this was done in order to bring about atonement for man, all this was done for you and me, Jesus didn’t need anything else to be complete, it was you and I who needed redemption, saving. This is why He subjected Himself to ridicule, torture, his face and body that He created for us and then Himself, brutalized by man, Whom He came to reconcile and bring peace. Now to us Jesus has charged that we be willing to suffer like He did that just maybe some may come into a right relationship with Him and reconciled > **2 Cor 5:18-** you and I have the ministry of reconciliation, just as He is being doubted, misrepresented, abused, so should we for the gospel.