

Jesus: The Reason for the Season

Charlie Brown: *“Isn’t there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?”*

Linus: *“Sure, Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about.”*

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. 11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. 12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 14 Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, Good will toward men.

“That’s what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown.”

He was exactly right. Christmas is not about Santa Claus. It’s not about toys, or decorations, or even

holiday cheer. Christmas is about Jesus—the birth of the most important person who has ever lived.

THERE IS NO ONE MORE IMPORTANT THAN JESUS.

Paul tells us in Colossians 1:18 that in *everything*, Jesus is to be **preeminent**. That word means *first*. Supreme. Above all others.

Who is Jesus? That is one of the greatest questions a person can ever contemplate. In fact, Jesus Himself asked His disciples, “*Who do people say that I am?*” And then He made it personal: “*who do you say that I am?*” Your answer to that question matters.

From Colossians 1, I want to show you **three answers** to the question, *Who is Jesus?*

Answer #1 — Jesus Is King Who Came to Change Us (Colossians 1:1–14)

It was never Paul’s will to serve Jesus. It was never his plan to be an apostle. In fact, he opposed everything Jesus stood for. But by the will of God, Jesus changed him. And not only Paul, but Jesus also changed Timothy, and He changed the believers in Colossae.

And how does Jesus change people? With one wonderful word: **grace**.

In verses 3 through 14, Paul talks about **three ways Jesus changes us**.

1. Jesus Changes Our Love. Jesus takes people once marked by love for self and reshapes them into people marked by love for others.

*...since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus **and of the love that you have** for all the saints... Epaphras our beloved fellow servant... has made known to us **your love in the Spirit**.*

2. Jesus Changes Our Lifestyle. J. Vernon McGee used to say, when people accused him of preaching grace: “*So you believe you can just believe in Jesus and live however you want?*” McGee would reply, “*That’s right—and when I believed in Jesus, He changed what I want.*” Paul prays for that kind of change in verses 9–12

3. Jesus Changes Our Lordship. Did you know that, before faith in Jesus, you lived under the domain of darkness? You were not in the Kingdom of Jesus. But the moment we believed in Jesus, everything changed. Notice who does the work. It’s

not us. God delivered us. God transferred us. God qualified us. God redeemed us. God forgave us.

Answer #2 — Jesus Is God Who Came to Reconcile Us (Colossians 1:15–23)

In Paul's day—and in ours—false teachers try to make Jesus less than He really is. False doctrine always lowers Jesus. True doctrine always exalts Him.

1. Jesus, Stepping into Creation, Makes the Invisible God Visible

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

2. Jesus Created Everything—and Holds Everything Together

16 For by him all things were created...

3. Jesus Is First Place in Everything Because He Rose from the Dead

... He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

4. Jesus Reconciled Us to God by His Blood

...making peace by the blood of his cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

Answer #3 — Jesus Is Messiah Who Came to Indwell Us (Colossians 1:24–29)

From these verses, we see **three ways Jesus, the indwelling Messiah, gives us what we could never have on our own.**

1. Jesus Gives Purpose in Pain

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake...

2. Jesus Gives Hope in Hard Times

Christ in you, the hope of glory.

3. Jesus Gives Power in the Process

“Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.”