

SERMON NOTES:

Series: Colossians – Christ Above All | Part 2: The Supremacy of Christ

Theme of Colossians: The absolute supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ as the Head of all creation and of the Church.

Max Lucado: *“We are a forgetful people. Sadly, when we lose sight of God’s amazing promises to us, and his marvelous provisions for us, it is our all-too-common tendency to become proud. We forget how desperate we were. We forget how merciful God has been. If we are not careful, we may begin to see salvation not as the toss of the life preserver to the drowning but as a journey in a row boat: God’s grace handling one oar and our noble efforts handling the other. It’s not that Jesus isn’t necessary; it’s just that Jesus needs our assistance. We may even start imagining that God is lucky to have us on his team. Slowly, subtly, we begin to embrace the doctrine of salvation by Jesus plus. Jesus plus good deeds. Jesus plus the right doctrine. Jesus plus the right Bible translation.”*

Colossians 1:1-23 (NLT)

¹ This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. ² We are writing to God’s holy people in the city of Colosse, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. May God our Father give you grace and peace.

³ We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God’s people, ⁵ which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.

R. Kent Hughes: *“It is a beautiful thing when you see in the Church love for all the saints – not just for some, not just for the lovable, but for all. This is what made the early church so amazing and so enticing to the ancient world.”*

⁶ This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God’s wonderful grace. ⁷ You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ’s faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf. ⁸ He has told us about the love for others that the Holy Spirit has given you.

G.K. Beale: *“Paul cannot think of true Christian faith, love, and hope (vv3-5) apart from the fruitful works that each of these three attitudes produced in the genuine Christian life...without the marks of faith, love, and hope resulting in fruitful works, there would have been no thanksgiving. For Paul, the attitudes of faith, love, and hope are inextricably linked to works.”*

Dr. Warren Wiersbe: *“Love is another evidence of true salvation, for the unsaved person is wrapped up mainly in himself. The fact that these people loved all the saints was proof that God had changed them and given them eternal life. Christian love is not a shallow feeling that we manufacture; it is the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.”*

⁹ So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. ¹⁰ Then the way you

live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

¹¹ We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy, ¹² always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light. ¹³ For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son, ¹⁴ who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

Paul had confidence that the revelation and knowledge of Christ was supreme above all.

¹⁵ Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.

He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,
¹⁶ for through him God created everything
in the heavenly realms and on earth.

He made the things we can see
and the things we can't see—

such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world.

Everything was created through him and for him.

¹⁷ He existed before anything else,
and he holds all creation together.

Max Lucado: "Make no mistake, Jesus saw himself as God. He leaves us with two options. Accept him as God, or reject him as a megalomaniac. There is no third alternative...Call him crazy, or crown him as King. Dismiss him as a fraud, or declare him to be God. Walk away from him, or bow down before him. But don't play games with him. Don't call him a great man. Don't list him among decent folk. Don't clump him in with Moses, Elijah, Buddha, Joseph Smith, Muhammad, or Confucius. He didn't leave that option. He is either God or godless. Heaven sent or hell born. All hope or all hype. But nothing in between."

Abraham Kuyper *"There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is sovereign over all, does not cry, "Mine!""*

Jesus is everything.

Everything Jesus is, he is in you.

Jesus changes everything.

Therefore, He is in me, changing everything.

¹⁸ Christ is also the head of the church,
which is his body.

He is the beginning,
supreme over all who rise from the dead.
So he is first in everything.

¹⁹ For God in all his fullness
was pleased to live in Christ,

²⁰ and through him God reconciled
everything to himself.

He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth
by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

²¹ This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. 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.

R. Kent Hughes: *"God's purpose rises from mankind's miserable condition."*

Dorothy Sayers: *"Whatever the answer to the problem of evil, this much is true: God took His own medicine."*

The cross revealed just how far God would go to save us.

²³ But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it.