

Colossians: Christ the Builder Jason Shawa "Knowing the Supreme God – Jesus" October 29, 2023

Key Verses: Colossians 1:13-23

Key Thought: To encourage our trust in Christ, Paul shows that A) Christ is <u>God</u>, and that B) Christ is the means of our <u>salvation</u> (and the former informs the latter).

Points to Consider:

- To encourage trust in Christ, Paul shows A) who Christ is, and B) what Christ has done.
- Who is Christ?
- 15: <u>He is the image of the invisible God</u>. ← Christ is the tangible manifestation of God (cf. Genesis 1:26-27).
- 15: <u>He is the firstborn over all creation</u>. ← "Firstborn" is a metaphor, referring to the authoritative position of the firstborn son in ancient Hebrew culture.
- 18-19: <u>He is the head of the church, and fully God</u>. ← "Head" is a metaphor that can refer to a means of nourishment, unity, and/or authority.
- 18: <u>He is supreme</u>! \rightarrow Let us be sure to honor this truth with our own lives.
- What has Christ done?
- 13-14, 21-22: <u>He has rescued us</u>. ← "Redemption" refers to freedom from slavery.
- 16: <u>He has created everything</u>. \rightarrow As creator, He is also the king.
- 20-22: <u>He has provided reconciliation</u>. ← He reconnects us with the Father, and He will cause all things to eventually work in harmony under His lordship.
- 21-23: <u>He has offered salvation</u>. → "The creator was crucified for His creation."
- "Once you see His deity, then you will understand the greatness of His death."

Discussion Prompts:

- Which aspect of Christ's identity stands out to you, and why?
- Which aspect of Christ's work stands out to you, and why?
- How has this passage encouraged your trust in Christ?
- What might it look like if you fully embraced the truth that Christ is the Lord?
- Close with prayers of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication.