

2015 Christmas Series:

“Jesus Is... – The Perfect Savior”

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

NKJV - *"..who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 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."*

ESP - *"El es el principio, el primogénito de entre los muertos, a fin de que El tenga en todo la primacía. Porque agradó al Padre que en El habitara toda la plenitud (de la Deidad), y por medio de El reconciliar todas las cosas consigo, habiendo hecho la paz por medio de la sangre de Su cruz, por medio de El, repito, ya sean las que están en la tierra o las que están en los cielos."*

NLT - *"He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything. For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, 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. "*

- I. Jesus is the **FORERUNNER** of Life! (v.18b)
- II. Jesus is the **MANIFESTER** of God! (v.19)
- III. Jesus is the **RECONCILER** of Blood! (v.20)

1. The FORERUNNER of Life: *"..who is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."*

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

AMP - *"..seeing He is the Beginning, the Firstborn from among the dead, so that He alone in everything and in every respect might occupy the chief place [stand first and be preeminent].*

"Firstborn" is the Greek word "πρωτότοκος"

or "**prōtotokos**" meaning "the highest in category, supremacy, and priority."

Paul is telling us 3 Great truths in this verse:

- Jesus is **RISEN** from the grave!
- Jesus is **SUPREME** over all who rise from the dead!
- All Christians will **RESURRECT** in the future, following Christ's example!

Why is Jesus Supreme & Preeminent over all who rise from the dead??

#1. Because of Jesus' *IDENTITY*:

- He alone is **God the Son, Immanuel, the Word made flesh!**
- Col 1:15-18 Paul declared Christ as the **Image, Sustainer, Creator, and Master!**

#2. Because of Jesus' *ACTIVITY*:

- He was the first from the grave, never to die again - as **Immortal!**
- Resurrection **vs.** Resuscitation??

Widow's son, Lazarus, Jewish girl, Boy from Nain were all Resuscitated NOT Resurrected!

Alan Sinclair does not want his death to be permanent.

After he dies, his blood will be flushed from his body and replaced with antifreeze. Technicians will then cool the body with dry ice and fly it to a cryonics center in Michigan. The center will keep it at minus 320 degrees. When a solution is found for whatever kills him, future technicians will thaw him out. Cured, Mr. Alan Sinclair will walk the earth once more. His wife has already died and undergone the cryonics solution.

In the future, ALL Christians will resurrect in glorious bodies:

- **Philippians 3:20-21** - "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."
- **1 John 3:2** - "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."
- **John 11:25-27** - "Jesus said to her, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

- *"One day you will hear that Billy Graham has died. Don't believe it. On that day I will be more alive than I ever have been!" - **Billy Graham***

Because of Christ's Resurrection, **Jesus is to have preeminence in ALL things in my life!!**

2. The MANIFESTER of God: *"For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell..."*

NLT - "For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ..."

AMP - " For it has pleased [the Father] that all the divine fullness (the sum total of the divine perfection, powers, and attributes) should dwell in Him permanently."

"Fullness" is the Greek word - **"πλήρωμα" or "plērōma"** (used 2x) and **"pleroo"** (used 4x) meaning "absolute complete Fullness" is a key word in Colossians. The Gnostics and other heretical groups said there were other divine beings called "Aeons", but Paul says that the **"fullness"** and totality of divinity dwells in Christ alone! This verse is one of the most powerful descriptions of Christ's Deity in the entire New Testament!

- *"Christ may have been ranked with these "aeons" by the Colossian teachers. Hence, the significance of the statement that the totality of the divine dwells in Christ alone." - **Vincent***
- *"The Gnostics distributed the divine powers among various "aeons". Paul gathers them all up in Christ, a full and bold statement of the deity of Christ." - **Robertson***
- **Nicene Creed (325 AD):** *"We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,..God of God, Light of Light, True God of True God..of one substance with the Father.."*
- **Chalcedonian Creed (451 AD):** *"Jesus Christ..complete in Divinity, complete in manhood, truly God, truly Man...God the Word"*
- *"It is not possible that the man who denies the deity of Christ can be a Christian. He is deliberately refusing the only way of escape from the wrath to come...Depend on it, my hearer, you never will go to heaven unless you are prepared to worship Jesus*

Christ as God." - Spurgeon

3. The RECONCILER of Blood: *".. 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."*

NLT - *"..and through Him God reconciled everything to Himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross."*

AMP - *"And God purposed that through (by the service, the intervention of) Him [the Son] all things should be completely reconciled back to Himself, whether on earth or in heaven, as through Him, [the Father] made peace by means of the blood of His cross."*

"Reconcile" is the Greek word **"ἀποκατάλλασσω" or "apokatallassō"** meaning to bring something BACK into a state of harmony or back into a relation of PEACE that used to exist. God the Father intentionally & purposefully used the blood-sacrifice of Christ to RECONCILE creation back to Himself...

- *Naples, Italy, is a city on the verge of bankruptcy. There are problems with organized crime and an underfunded police department. So what are they spending money on? They have begun to DNA test dog feces so that they can prosecute residents who do not pick up after their dogs. In a city with so many problems, especially financial ones, it is strange to spend money on dog droppings. Tommaso Sodano, the vice mayor, says, "I know some people find it funny that with all the problems the city has, we would focus on dog feces."*

To **"make peace through His blood"** means to cause God's enemies (Rom. 5:10; Col. 1:21) to become, by faith, His friends and His children. Mankind has left God and needs to be brought back to Him. Without Christ, the Bible says that we are at war with God, separated from Him by our sin. We are estranged, alienated, and in a hostile position as GOD'S ENEMIES without Christ!

- **Rom 5:10-11** - *"For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life...we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ..we have now received the*

reconciliation."

- **Col 1:21-22** - "And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has **reconciled** in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight.."

Reconciliation is the **removal of hostility** that stands between mankind and God!

Reconciliation is the basis of **restored fellowship** between people and God!

Reconciliation means the whole **"world" is made savable** through Christ's death!

Why would any person reject the free offer of forgiveness of sin in Jesus Christ? Yet so many people do exactly that. Perhaps they can be compared to the 45 million Americans who still refuse to wear their seatbelts. The federal government says that 38 unbelted people die in traffic accidents every day. Most of those people would still be alive today if they had simply fastened the belt. It is easier to be saved than it is to buckle your seatbelt!!

Jesus Christ alone is the BRIDGE for us to cross and get to God:

"The Bridge of Grace will bear your weight, brother. Thousands of big sinners have gone across that bridge, yea, tens of thousands have gone over it. Some have been the chief of sinners, and some have come at the very last of their days, but the arch has never yielded beneath their weight. I will go with them, trusting to the same support. It will bear me over as it has for them." - Spurgeon