

January 1, 2023

Sermon Summary

The Loveliness of Christ

Colossians 1:15-22

As we come to this New Year, we are comforted by the One who makes all things new and never changes. We know that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. As we reflect on the past year and look ahead to the new one, we rejoice in knowing the One who was and is and is to come.

Paul's High Christology

Colossians 1:15-22 is a heavy passage. Paul is presenting to us a passage rich with high Christology. Paul does not have a low view of Jesus that is popular amongst the world today. This is a passage that doesn't just give us a glimpse at the glory of Christ, it magnifies it. The glory and deity of Christ is placed front and center.

The Deity of Christ

The loveliness of Christ is seen in His greatness and His attributes. Paul draws our attention to this by highlighting various truths of Christ that all relate to His work, His person, and His Kingship. To be called the image of the invisible God means that Jesus is God perfectly. To be the firstborn of all creation, Paul is emphasizing the supremacy, honor, and glory due to Christ. Christ is also seen as sovereign over every earthly and heavenly power and He is the sustainer of all things. Paul also points to Christ being the head of the Church and all of these elements point to Christ's preeminence.

The Lion and the Lamb

Intertwined with Paul's message of Christ's majesty are references to His sufferings. Revelation 5:5-6 is just one passage that shows that Christ is the Lion of the tribe of Judah and Lamb that was slain. Is Christ the conquering King? Yes! Is He the sinless sacrifice to save mankind? Yes! Is He one more than the other? Not at all! He is both perfectly! As we stand before this King, we are in the presence of unlimited power and authority, but we are also in the presence of One that truly loves us. The only way that we should respond to the loveliness of Christ is with praise, worship, and rejoicing.