

Colossians 1:19-23

Christ the Redeemer

Introduction

We need to take tonight's verses in context with the previous verses (V15-18) . . .

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

16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

If ever we see theology in Scripture, that is the study and exposition of God, we see that in these verses and tonight's study.

In these verses, we see the deity of Christ, the supremacy of Christ, the Creator in Christ, the eternal and infinite nature of Christ and Christ as the Sustainer of all things.

And in all of these definitions and characteristics of Christ, they can be directed attributed and revealed in the Church and in the Resurrection (V18).

With the Resurrection, He has defeated the last enemy, death, and giving the Believer new life, a new creation and binding these new creations into His Body, the Church, by His Spirit.

We see God Eternal in the Church, as all its members were chosen before the foundation of the world, thus the Church was chosen from all eternity

We see God the Sustainer in the Church in that 'the gates of Hades will not overcome it', just as He sustains and keeps His people, the Reformed doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints (eternal security), thus it is with the Church . . .

So that in all things He might have preeminence, His deity, sovereign over all things . . .

Colossians 1:19-23

[19](#) For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,
[20](#) 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.
[21](#) And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled
[22](#) in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight--
[23](#) if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

It Pleased the Father

(V19) – “For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell . . .”

- For it pleased the Father . . .
 - There are two events in Scripture where the Father literally speaks to His pleasure in His Son . . .

The Baptism

Matthew 3:13-17 – “Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?" But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him. When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

- "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

The Transfiguration

Matthew 17:1-8 – “Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.”

- "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"
- Peter, in Second Peter, expounding later about his eyewitness account.

II Peter 1:17 – “For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

- The Son pleases the Father . . .
- The Father takes great joy in His Son . . .
- That in Him all the fullness should dwell . . .
 - Fullness – completeness
 - Dwell - abide lastingly or permanently
 - In the previous verses, 15-18, Paul describes the attributes of the deity of Christ . . .
 - He is the image of the invisible God . . .
 - He is the supreme and sovereign . . .
 - He is the Creator . . .
 - He is eternal and infinite . . .
 - He is the Sustainer of all things . . .
 - Fullness encompasses everything that is mentioned and everything that is not . . .

(V21-22) – “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. 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 . . .”

- And by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven . . .
 - Reconcile – to change thoroughly from
 - Reconcile in this case is the act of the one, Him, resulting in the change or transformation of another . . .
 - Jesus has reconciled all things to Himself, what are ‘all things’?
 - ‘All things’ is not a universal statement, it is not an everything inclusive statement, but is contextually applied to . . .
 - The things that have been reconciled, whether on earth or in heaven . . .
 - All things that are thoroughly changed to Himself, by Him . . .
 - This is an act of Christ and it is a finished act . . .
 - He reconciles His elect . . .
 - He reconciles His creation . . .

Romans 8:19-21 – “For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.”

- An interesting note that He reconciles things on earth or things in heaven, not things under the earth . . .
- **Philippians 2:10** – “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth . . .”
- Having made peace through the blood of His cross.
 - Jesus is the Prince of Peace . . .
 - And by His blood, the blood of the cross, He has made peace with those who were His enemies, you and me . . .
 - He made peace with us, we did not make peace with Him . . .

Ephesians 2:14-16 – “For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.”

Romans 5:1-2 – “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”

- And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works.
 - Our condition before being reconciled . . .
 - Before being ‘changed thoroughly from’ this miserable estate . . .
 - We were in dire straits, and as we described in earlier studies, a condition far worse than we can possibly imagine or comprehend . . .

Ephesians 2:1-3 – “And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.”

- Sons of disobedience and children of wrath, that’s who we were . . .
- Alienated and enemies, estranged from God and haters of God . . .
- In our minds and by our wicked works, in our very thoughts and actions . . .
- Yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death . . .

Romans 5:8-11 – “But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! For if, while we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”

- To present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight . . .
 - We started by being reconciled, that is to be ‘changed thoroughly from’.
 - *We were changed from, we were changed by, and we are changed to . . .*
 - *We were changed from . . .*
 - Being ‘alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works’ towards God . . .
 - *We were changed by . . .*
 - ‘The blood of His cross, reconciled in the body of His flesh through death’ . . .
 - *And we are changed to . . .*
 - Be ‘holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight’ . . .
 - Present – to set along side
 - To be presented holy, blameless and above reproach is to be declared righteous, that is perfect in the sight of God . . .
 - *We were changed from unrighteousness . . .*
 - *We were changed by His blood and His death . . .*
 - *We were changed to righteousness . . .*

Romans 3:21-28 – “But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.”

(V22) – “If indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.”

- If indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard . . .

- Those that teach that Believer can lose their salvation will point to this and Scriptures similar to this one, but in doing this they miss God’s view on eternal life . . .
- Reformed Theology (Spurgeon) calls the doctrine of eternal security ‘the Perseverance of the Saints’.
- One, that the Believer was chosen before the foundation of the world and that Believer is seated in the Heavenlies.
 - God sees the Elect from the beginning and the end . . .
- Two, that the work that He has begun in us, He is faithful to complete until the day of Christ Jesus.
 - The grace He saved us with is the grace He keeps us with, we didn’t save ourselves and there is nothing we can do to keep us saved.
- Scripture does speak to some whom seemingly come to Christ, but in the end are not regenerate, not ever having the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which is our seal unto eternity.

I John 2:19 – “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”

Matthew 7:21-23 – “‘Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

- We are exhorted here and elsewhere to make our election sure . . .

II Peter 1:5-11 – “But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins. Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to

make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.”

- We are a ‘new man’, a ‘new creation’, a citizen of Heaven . . .
- Our allegiance to Christ should be evident . . .
- Be grounded and be steadfast . . .
- Which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister . . .
 - Which was preached to every creature under heaven seems to be bit of a stretch . . .
 - It would hard to believe that in Paul’s time, the early days of the church, that the gospel had been preached to every creature . . .
 - It is hard to imagine that this will ever take place exactly as stated . . .
 - But God’s revelation of Himself, which is the Gospel, to all creatures is undeniable . . .

Romans 1:18-20 – “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse . . .”

- Which I, Paul, became a minister . . .
 - Paul concludes His dissertation on deity of Christ by declaring his ministry, the preaching of the Gospel . . .

Final Thoughts

In concluding tonight's study, we really finished up a three-part series on the characteristics of the deity of Christ. Tonight's study focusing on reconciliation, Christ the Redeemer.

Christ reconciling all things to Himself, reconciling meaning 'to change thoroughly from'.

- *We were changed from . . .*
 - Being 'alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works' towards God . . .
- *We were changed by . . .*
 - 'The blood of His cross, reconciled in the body of His flesh through death' . . .
- *And we are changed to . . .*
 - Be 'holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight' . . .

In reviewing the Paul's dissertation on the deity, we need to take one final look at Colossians 1:15-23 together and in context.

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

16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,

20 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.

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight--

23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Seven characteristics of the deity of Christ are revealed in these verses . . .

- One, He is the image of the invisible God, He is God in His very being and nature . . .
- Two, the Firstborn over all creation, His supremacy is declared over all of creation . . .
- Three, For by Him all things were created, Christ is the Creator . . .
- Four, He is the head of the body, the church . . .
- Five, He is the firstborn from the dead, the resurrected unto immortality and glorification . . .
- Six, in Him all the fullness should dwell, Christ encapsulates all the is the nature and character of God . . .
- Seven, by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, He is Christ the Redeemer . . .

No where else in Scripture do we see so fully expressed the deity of Christ . . .

Jesus is God . . .