

Behold Him!

Behold His Deity

Col. 1:15-2

Background: In Colossae, there was a heresy circulating which said that Jesus was not God, but a spirit that came from God which was really good. This heresy had to be confronted because the message of the Gospel was on the line. From John's testimony of the Word being God and becoming flesh (John 1:1-3, 14), Paul picks up this theme to show that "In Him (Jesus) all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form." *So, the purpose of this message is not to prove the deity of Christ, which is well established! No, I want us to consider what the deity of Christ means for those who trust in Him and follow Him so that we can revel in the victory over Satan, sin, death and hell because we serve the GREAT I AM! -*

- I. **Behold His Preeminence Over Us (1:15-18)** - Image (Icon-exact likeness in nature and form) and Firstborn (prototokos-not biological but in rank and position)

- **We see this in Creation** - Everything was made by Him, Through Him, and For Him.

@ Richard Mouw, "There is not one square inch of the entire creation about which Jesus Christ does not cry out, "This is mine! This belongs to me!" - The only problem is that we are like the seagulls on "Finding Nemo", right? We are constantly crying out, "Mine! Mine! Mine!" - Guess what? You own nothing! You can do Nothing without using what Jesus Christ made in the first place!

- **We also see this in the Church (v. 18)**, those redeemed through faith in Christ.

Preeminence means **FIRST PLACE** or you would say, "Jesus is Lord!"

- II. **Behold His Presence Among Us (1:19; 2:8-9)** Jesus could tell Philip: "When you have seen Me, you have seen the Father." It's why the writer of Hebrews could say, "Jesus is the exact representation of God." His nature, His attributes, His perfection are all in Christ!

Everything about Jesus' Deity though POINTS to v. 20

- III. **Behold His Purpose for Us (1:20)**

- **Jesus came to reconcile us to God** Only Jesus could do this—**Heb. 9:11-12** "But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption."

- **Jesus came to give a purpose for living! - 2 Cor. 5:18** "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled the world to Himself, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."