

Jesus is Lord

Part 2- Lord of Creation

- **Intro:** We typically preach through books of the Bible, and last week we began a new series through the book of Colossians.
- This letter written by a man named Paul, contains some of the most powerful evidence debating the sufficiency of Jesus as the Christ or Messiah. God's Chosen King.
- I would say that, like myself, if at times you experience doubt or lack of faith to go back and read this letter. It can easily be read in a single sitting, and I assure you it will stir your faith in the sufficiency of Jesus.
- This is a relatively short book, only 4 chapters, written to a new church in the city of Colossae, which is in present day Turkey.
- Paul wrote this letter while in Rome in prison. He was not staying in 5 star all inclusive resort in Rome living the dream. He was in a disgusting, rat infested pit, and yet he still felt compelled to pen this letter.
- I would say the passage we are covering today could be considered the pinnacle of this letter.
- It is a relatively short passage but it contains some of the most exalted language to describe Jesus that has ever been used.
- They were experiencing some pretty rapid growth, but somewhere along the way they had moved on from the sufficiency of Christ and had taken on some advice from false teachers.
- Such as the need for Jewish artifacts or different kinds of pagan mysticism to kind of add too or complete their faith as Christians.
- Colossians 1:15-20 is the passage today and many scholars feel like Paul may have not been the original author of these verses due to the loftiness or headiness of the language and the rhythm in which it was written.
- Many think he is simply quoting an old Hymn the Jews used to remember the qualities of their Messiah.
- It is logical to think this way, I mean is it easier to remember a passage or something written as a song
- We are going to split these verses up, focusing on verses 15-17 today, and look at them through the course of two weeks but I

want to read all of it so that the cohesiveness of this passage will be clear to you

- While I am reading this passage I want you to pay particular attention to how many times the word “all” is used.
- Colossians 1:15-20 (15) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (16) For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities- all things were created through Him and for Him. (17) And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. (18) And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. (19) For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, (20) and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross. (ESV)
- Did you notice how many times the word “all” appeared in this passage? 7 times with 5 of those being found in the passages we are focusing on today.
- The word all is defined as: the whole quantity or amount, the whole number, every one.
- These verses are split in two distinct parts: 1) Jesus’ role and place in creation and 2) Jesus’ role and place in re-creation or redemption.
- We are going to focus on part one today, with that being

Jesus Christ is Lord of Creation

- Verses 15-17 include language and descriptions of Jesus that have a significant influence on our belief or theology of Jesus as Messiah.
- Think about this question: If someone asked you, who is Jesus, how would you answer?
- Of course there are many absolutely correct answers, I mean He is God and there are lots to be said about him. Right
- I know my go to answer would be Savior or Lord, Messiah, maybe even the Word, if I wanted to be really spiritual. What are some others?
- Many of us only refer to Jesus due to what he has done for me what he has done for you. After He took on flesh, paid the

penalty for our sins on the cross.

- That is absolutely true and something we need to remember and never forget or diminish its importance to our eternal hope.
- We need to remember that there is a difference between what we do and who we are.
- Jesus was something before he was born into creation. Before he took on flesh and became a man, he was, and has always been.
- These verses are boldly and clearly defining His role as the Creator of ALL.
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- “I now believe there is a God...I now think it [the evidence] does point to a creative Intelligence almost entirely because of the DNA investigations. What I think the DNA material has done is that it has shown, by the almost unbelievable complexity of the arrangements which are needed to produce life, that intelligence must have been involved in getting these extraordinarily diverse elements to work together.”
— Anthony Flew
- He boldly defended the idles of atheism for over half a century until the science of creation proved to him that life could not exist without divine intervention.
- For instance DNA, the language of life. The code that defines who we are, what we look like. Everything about us is written in this complex compound.
- It is found in every cell in your body. Scientists say that if you unwound this compound in every cell in your body and stretched it end to end it would stretch across the galaxy.
- All of this evidence points to a creator that exists and one that could not be created

Jesus Christ is Pre-existent

- (16) For by Him all things were created,
(17) And He is before all things
- Some of you may be saying to yourself, wait a second, you just read verse 15 which clearly states that Christ is the, “firstborn of all creation”
- This could lead to the question of If Christ is the firstborn of creation then how can he be God? Is Christ pictured as part of creation, and therefore not as God? You may be having a

Scooby moment

- I would say the term “of” is very ambiguous by itself.
- For instance, one of the titles of the president is commander and chief of the armed forces. He is not a part of the armed forces; he is over the armed forces.
- Clearly the first word of verse 16, “FOR” explains verse 15. If
- Paul was trying to say that Christ is part of creation he would not have written in the verse next verse that all things were created by HIM!!
- This “firstborn of all creation” is clearly explained in verse 16 not in the sense that he is a part of creation but he is over all of creation
- There are a couple of other passages of scripture that speak of Jesus as the creator
- John 1:1-3 (1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.
- Hebrews 1:1-2 (1) Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, (2) but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world
- These verses are screaming in a very blunt and crystal clear fashion that:

Jesus is Supreme over Creation

- A biblical commentator says that in that culture the firstborn male child were considered preeminent over their siblings, meaning supreme over. So Paul calling him the firstborn of creation is confirming His preeminence.
- But just like that culture also believed, the firstborn received double, triple or often times all of the inheritance. This means that all of creation is HIS. All of it.
- In the same way a playwright owns all of their creations, it is their property, and creation is God’s property in every way.
- The Bible takes the supremacy of Christ over creation a step further and says that Jesus holds all things together.

- Without Jesus all of creation could not exist.

Hebrews 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

- Look at the last three words of that verse, word of his power, not power of his word.
- Through the word God created, changed, destroyed
- This scripture is stating that not only did God speak and the world was created but it still remains today because Jesus is continuing to orchestrate its existence with his word.
- The only logical conclusion when considering this evidence is to state that not only did Jesus speak and creation came into existence but without Him there would be a great implosion, therefore He Is Supreme
- It seems like the Colossians had heard the good news and believed in Christ but had also adopted false teachings of needing Christ plus angels, Christ plus historic artifacts, etc.
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- This kind of rhetoric exists today, don't be fooled or think that somehow these people were ignorant and there is no way that I would do such a thing.
- We must never forget, or move on, or think that we need to doubt the fact that:

Jesus is Sufficient

- Remember a small subtle variation from Christ's sufficiency may seem harmless at first but over time will lead to more confusion and doubt and make you a much easier target for the enemy to isolate and eventually take you out
- Jesus isn't just better than other options, HE IS THE ONLY OPTION.
- All other options are guaranteed to do one thing. Lead to failure and disappointment.
- Verse 16 says
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- (16) For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities- all things were created through Him and

for Him.

- These terms thrones, dominions, rulers, authorities, were generally referring to spiritual beings

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“These probably represent the highest orders of the angelic realm...here the point is that the highest angel-princes, like the rest of creation, are subject to Christ as the one in whom, through whom, and for whom they were created. They were created IN those of creation) are centered in the Son; they were created through Him, because he is the divine agent in creation; they were created for Him, because he is the goal to which they all tend.”

FF Bruce

- What Paul is saying is that all of those exist only because Jesus created them and they continue to exist today only because he is holding them together.
- Why on Earth would you think you need to add to the creator of the universe with something that he created and continues to hold together?
- That is distorting the truth and believing the lie told in the very beginning “Did God really say...?”
- First century Christians believed this lie, believe me you and I can easily fall for the same trick.
- As Christians many of the things we have talked about today are easy to believe and many of you have been shaking your head in agreement when talking about these BIG ideas about the lordship of Christ and his role in creation.
- But what happens when the Lordship of Christ hits a little close to home and we start talking about the things that we “own”
- NOW wait just a minute preacher! I will not stand for you talking about my stuff, I worked for it, I earned it. This is America, not North Korea.
- I would push back on that idea and say that if Christ is Lord of Creation and He is my Lord, then

We Are Stewards of Creation Not Owners

- Jesus himself told several parables explaining this very point
- He teaches that everything we have been given is a loan and we will be held accountable for how well we steward or take care of that item.
- Matthew 24 gives a great illustration of this value.

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Matthew 24:45-51 (45) Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? (46) Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. (47) Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. (48) But is that wicked servant says to himself, “My master is delayed”, and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, (50) the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know (51) and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

- Why is this servant presented as so wicked as to deserve such a terrible judgment?
- Because his mentality changed from that of a steward to that of an owner. He became a hypocrite. He was no longer stewarding another man’s property, he was pretending to own it.
- The very next chapter talks about the parable of the ten virgins and their lamp stands with oil. They were meant to stand watch for the bridegroom to lead him to his bride for their wedding. To light the way and keep him safe. 5 of them ran out of oil for their lamp and had no reserves. They had to leave and replenish the oil; however by the time they returned the bridegroom had already come by.
- Well you might say, so what? The point is they were given a task, one job, and instead of being fully prepared and making sure they had enough oil they assumed.
- They were poor stewards
- Many of you may be wondering if OH is being a good steward with the resources given to us.
- That is a valid question and one that may hit pretty close to home if you have been a part of another church that did not

- steward their resources well.
- There are checks and balances on top of the checks and balances when it comes to OH.
 - A good question you might want to ask yourself if you are a member of that group
 - Is the standard against which churches should steward their money any different than the standard against which you steward yours?
 - Truth is there is no difference in the many spheres we encounter and how the Lord sees them. Public/private, non-profit/ for profit
 - They all belong to HIM, period.
 - In our culture we tend to struggle with this concept because we see our stuff as items we own, not steward.
 - Many people are upset about churches abusing money and other resources, and I agree with that mentality but it is so easy for you and I think that we own our resources most especially the benjamins.
 - The vast majority of Americans view of ownership does not line up with the biblical view of ownership.
 - We see private property as ownership. Now you have the right to prevent someone else from taking it but you do not hold on to it with a closed fist.
 - Remember everything in creation, visible and invisible, was created by him. There is no limit to what he is lord over
 - What about being good stewards of your time. Is that not a gift?
 - What about children? They are not mine, I am just a steward for a season.
 - If you truly have the mentality that none of your possessions are owned by you and you are just taking care of them for a short while then you will be fine.
 - I am not talking about perfection, but a heart motive
 - **Luke 16:10-12 (10) One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. (11) If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? (12) And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?**

- What is Jesus saying here?
- He is saying that all we have now is not our own, and if we cannot be a faithful steward with all that belongs to God then he will not give us something that will belong to us.
- What is he referring too, “that which is your own”?

We Will One Day Reign With Christ Over Creation

- This is pointing to the redemptive power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- We will not just be there when he returns and watch from the sidelines as he rules but we will reign with him.
- One day we will no longer be stewards, but owners.
- Jesus is the rightful heir and there is no arguing that point but there are references throughout the NT referring to promises of us, you and I, being heirs, sharing in that inheritance.

Romans 8:16-17 (16) The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (17) and if children, then heirs-heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.

- This reference does not mean that this inheritance is really Jesus’ and we simply get to share like a red headed step child.
- No, this says that we are fellow heirs, we get the full inheritance, and when we obtain the inheritance then we take possession and are transformed from stewards to owners.
- With ownership comes authority.

2 Timothy 2:11-12 (11) The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; (12) If we endure, we will also reign with him

- The Bible is saying that we will have more authority and power over our possessions in heaven than we do now.
- Jesus said “If you have not been faithful in that which is another’s NOW, who will give you that which is your own

THEN

- Psalm 37 says delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart.
- Millions of people are killing themselves thinking they are achieving the desires of their heart only to find emptiness and disappointment.
- Seek the Lord and you will find peace, you will find delight, you will find contentment. You will also find ownership and authority
- But only in his timing and his ways.
- If this desire for authority and ownership outweigh the desire for Jesus then that mentality is wrong and you desire creation over the Creator. Course correction can be achieved because the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross was and is sufficient for all of our shortcomings
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If you are here and Not Yet a Christian:

- Paul refers in Colossians 1:23 to “the hope of the gospel.” There is no sweeter message of hope in all the world than to hear God announce that when you get up in the morning miserable and depressed with a sense of guilt and estrangement before a holy God, you can go to bed that very night- this very night- with a quiet and peaceful heart knowing that every sin you have ever committed and ever will commit is forgiven and you are reconciled to the Almighty by the death of his Son. That’s the free offer of the gospel!
- I would love the opportunity to talk with you about what it looks like to serve this Lord of Creation after the service

If you are Here and a Christian:

- Who is the true Lord of creation in your life? Jesus Christ or you
- Do you fully believe that we are called to be stewards in this life and not owners?
- I struggle often with this, especially when it comes to my kids.

I want to be a good dad, you know providing for them, keeping them safe, loving them, etc. but more often than I would care to admit I think of them as mine instead of the true Lord of Creation, Jesus Christ.

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Communion