

The Supremacy of Christ¹

August 21, 2022

Colossians 1:1-23

Some background and context of what was going on at Colosse: (Our focus this morning will be on verses 13-18.)

Here was what Paul was telling the Church at Colosse and is also true for us.

He delivered us. (v. 13a)

The word means “rescued from danger.” We could not do this ourselves, in fact the reason that we needed delivered was because of our self.

Also we were delivered from the authority of Satan and the power of darkness. The gnostic false teachers believed in an organization of evil spirits that controlled the world (Colossians 1:16, 2:10 and 15): angels, archangels, principalities, powers, virtues, dominions, and thrones.

He translated us. (v. 13b)

He moved us into His Kingdom, from the kingdom of the world to the Kingdom of the Lord both now and forever.

He redeemed us. (v. 14a)

The word means “to release a prisoner by the payment of a ransom.” This was not a ransom owed to Satan but rather by His death and resurrection, Jesus met the holy demands of God’s law. Jesus has set us free.

He has forgiven us. (v. 14b)

Redemption and forgiveness go together (Ephesians 1:7). This is to “cancel a debt.” “Satan can’t find anything in the field that will indict us.”

He existed before Creation. (v. 15)

Firstborn means “of first importance.”

He created all things. (v. 16a)

All things were made by Him. (John 1:3)

You have heard me say it before, if you can believe Genesis 1:1 you will have no trouble believing the rest of the Bible.

¹ Portion of outline taken from Warren Wiersbe

All things exist for Him (v. 16b)

"Everything exists *in* Him, *for* Him, and *through* Him. Jesus Christ is the Sphere in which they exist, the Agent through which they came into being, and the One for whom they were made.

Paul's use of three different prepositions is one way of refuting the philosophy of the false teachers. For centuries, the Greek philosophers had taught that everything needed a primary cause, an instrumental cause, and a final cause. The primary cause is the plan, the instrumental cause the power, and the final cause the purpose. When it comes to Creation, Jesus Christ is the primary cause (He planned it), the instrumental cause (He produced it), and the final cause (He did it for His own pleasure).

If everything in creation exists *for* Him, then nothing can be evil of itself (except for Satan and fallen angels, even those God uses to accomplish His will). Gnostic regulations about using God's creation are all foolish (Col. 2:20–23). It also means that God's creation, even though under bondage to sin (Rom. 8:22), can be used for God's glory and enjoyed by God's people (1 Tim. 6:17)." ~ **Warren Wiersbe**

He holds all things together. (v. 17)

A guide took a group of people through an atomic laboratory and explained how all matter was composed of rapidly moving electric particles. The tourists studied models of molecules and were amazed to learn that matter is made up primarily of space. During the question period, one visitor asked, "If this is the way matter works, what holds it all together?" For that, the guide had no answer.

But the Christian has an answer: Jesus Christ! Because "He is before all things," He can hold all things together. Again, this is another affirmation that Jesus Christ is God. Only God exists before all of Creation, and only God can make Creation cohere. To make Jesus Christ less than God is to dethrone Him.

He is the Head of the Church. (v. 18)

Prayer Focus:

- **Have I been delivered?**
- **Am I living for Him?**
- **Am I trusting in His leading and not the leading of the world?**