

Portraits of the Magnificent Christ (Part Two) **Paul's View of Jesus (Colossians 1:15-20)**

Dr. Jim Cecy

Colossians 1:15-20 "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything. For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven."

Review of Part One

Portrait #1 Christ: The Visible Image of the Invisible God

"And He is the image of the invisible God..." Colossians 1:15

Portrait #2 Christ: The First-Born of All Creation

"... the firstborn of all creation." Colossians 1:15

Portrait #3 Christ: The Divine Creator

"For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities -- all things have been created through Him and for Him."
Colossians 1:16

Portrait #4 Christ: The Worship-Deserving Creator

"For by Him all things were created.....all things have been created through Him and for Him." Colossians 1:16

Portrait #5 Christ: The Pre-Incarnate One

"And He is before all things..." Colossians 1:17

Now in Part Two

Portrait #6 Christ: The Sustainer of the Universe

"...and in Him all things hold together." Colossians 1:17

Regarding the Spinning Universe

Hebrews 1:3 "(Christ) upholds all things by the word of His power..." (Hebrews 1:3)

Regarding Laminins (cell adhesion molecules)

Acts 17:28 "For in Him we live and move and have our being."

Christ: the One that holds this spinning universe together is also the One who holds our spinning lives together.

"Lord Jesus, You are Christ: The Sustainer of the Universe"

Portrait #7 Christ: The Head of the Body, the Church

"He is also head of the body, the church..." (Colossians 1:18)

The Church is a body with Christ as the head — inseparable from the living Body • controlling and giving direction to every part of the Body • with ultimate authority over the Body

head = Greek: kephale = inspirer, ruler, guide, the power and mainspring of activity.

Whereas, the universe is the creation of Christ — created in Him...by Him...and for Him, the Church is the new creation of Christ — created in Him...by Him...and for Him!

Ephesians 1:22-23 "And He (God the Father) put all things in subjection under His (Christ's) feet, and gave Him (Christ) as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all."

Ephesians 5:24 "...the church is subject to Christ..."

1 Peter 5:2-3 "...shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God (who Peter later refers to as)...the Chief Shepherd."

Hebrews 13:17 "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account (i.e. to Christ, the Head of the Church)."

"Lord Jesus, You are Christ: The Head of the Body, the Church."

"Lord Jesus, You are the Head of Campus Bible Church."

Portrait #8 Christ: The Beginning

"He is the beginning..." Colossians 1:18

Christ did not just EXIST in the beginning. He IS the beginning

beginning = Greek: arche = the source, the originator, the power behind

Christ is the Alpha and the Omega. The beginning and the end.

Christ, however, finishes what He starts and never starts anything He does not plan on completing!

Psalms 118: 24 "This is the day which the LORD has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Philippians 1:6 "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus."

"Lord Jesus, You are Christ: the Beginning"

Portrait #9 Christ: The First-Born from the Dead

"He is...the first-born from the dead..." Colossians 1:18

Revelation 1:5 "Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first born of the dead..."

first born = protokos = first in priority (cf. notes on Colossians 1:15)

Jesus Christ was the first born from the dead — the most important person ever raised from the dead. Because His resurrection makes possible all other resurrections. Thus it is prototokos - the first in priority. (cf. 1 Corinthians 15)

"But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep." (1 Corinthians 15:20)

"Lord Jesus, You are Christ: The First-Born from the dead."

Portrait #10 Christ: The Pre-Eminent One

"...so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything." Colossians 1:18

Christ is entitled to have supremacy and lordship over every area of our lives.

"Lord Jesus, I want what you want."

Dying to self on a daily basis...

"Lord Jesus. You are Christ: The Pre-Eminent One."

Conclusion to Part Two:

Philippians 2:5-11 "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

To be continued . . .

Prayer Requests:



Growth Group Homework

For the week of April 22, 2012

SERMON SERIES: COLOSSIANS

Message Title: "Portraits of the Magnificent Christ – Part 2"

Dr. Jim Cecy

April 22, 2012

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. If you had to compete in one of the following events (and fitness was not an issue) which one would it be and why?
 - World Cup Final
 - Tour de France
 - Super Bowl
 - Wimbledon
 - World Series
 - Masters Tournament
 - Olympics
 - Daytona 500 (NASCAR)
 - Coney Island 4th of July Hot Dog Eating Contest
2. There are a variety of ways to refresh and recharge our batteries when life is hitting us hard. What do you do (or wish you did) to get your energy and focus back on track?
3. Take a look at your sermon notes and reflect on this week's teaching. Was there a particular point or passage of Scripture that challenged you or caught your attention?

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DIGGING DEEPER

4. In this series of sermons we are looking at twelve portraits of the Magnificent Christ. When you think about Jesus, do you tend to picture Him as He was during His earthly ministry or as He is now in His glorified, resurrected state?
 - Read Revelation 1:9-20. What part of John's description of Christ strikes you the most and why?

 - How does a clear view of Christ help you to handle the trials and challenges of your daily life?

5. This week we learned that Christ is the Sustainer of the universe – "... he holds all things together" (Col. 1:17). "Otherwise the whole frame of nature would burst asunder and break in pieces... and the inhabitants of it would be dissolved" (*John Gill*). Read Mark 4:35-41.
 - What do you observe about Christ in this passage?

 - What do you observe about the disciples? (How might this apply to you?)

TAKING IT HOME

6. In Colossians 1:18, Paul states: "[Christ] is also head of the body, the church... so that He Himself will come to have *first place in everything*." If you had to pick one area of your life where you need Christ to become the *prototokos* ("first in priority"), which would it be?
 - My time
 - My talents
 - My treasures
 - My relationships
 - My speech
 - My work

7. What can you do on a practical level this week to follow the example of Christ? (Philippians 2:5-11)