

THE PREEMINENCE
AND
SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST



Sermon Series Notes



“Who Jesus Is and What He Did” (Colossians 1:9-23)

Danny Hodges – NT3475

INTRO: False teaching was threatening the church at Colosse. It was a strange mixture of Eastern religious philosophy and Jewish ceremonialism. It had within it the seeds of what later became known as Gnosticism. Gnosto means to know, and this teaching suggested superior knowledge, as one person called it, “intellectual snobbery.” The founders of it taught that it wasn’t enough to know Jesus, you’ve got to have superior knowledge. Why? They believed that Jesus was an emanation. (All things are derived from the first reality or perfect God by steps of degradation to lesser degrees of the first reality or God, and at every step these emanating beings are less pure, less perfect, less divine). They believed God was good and matter was evil. How could God create matter-evil? He couldn’t, so you know what God did? He just spawned off a whole bunch of sub-gods (emanations), and they kept going and going and going and going and going and going and finally started getting bad and got worse and worse and worse and then a really gross one created matter. And God became so far removed in this process that He had nothing to do with it. They believed Jesus was one of the first good emanations, and the bad ones were the demons. And between man and God was this barrier of evil demons and the only way you could ever get through that was to have super-knowledge and to worship the good emanations who could help you get through. That’s why they worshipped angels, because they felt they needed the angels to crack through to get to the divine realm. They believed Jesus was one of those angels. He wasn’t God, He was sub-god, an emanation. Some of them said He was a phantom, and that’s why Paul says in 1:22 that: “In the body of His flesh,” He did this. And in chapter 2, verse 9, he says: “The Godhead dwells in Him bodily.” It is essential to get the right Jesus in your belief system!

Matthew 24:24 Jesus said false Christ’s will appear and deceive many

Go over the various Jesus’ that are out there (see pamphlets)...

I. THE TEXT

Begin at Col.1:3

v.20 Some teach universal salvation from this verse

v.23a The perseverance of the saints

v.23b Some say this is hyperbole (exaggerated statement), but I can't see the Holy Spirit inspiring an exaggerated statement; See Col.1:6. Also Rev.14:6.

II. LESSONS

A. Who Is The Real Jesus Christ?

* Jesus = Yaweh is salvation

* Christ = Anointed One

1. The image of the invisible God

* What does it mean that God is invisible? It does not mean that He is without substance. The wind is invisible, but it is real. See John 4:24. We must understand that there is a physical world, and there is a spiritual world that is just as real. II Kings 6 Elisha praying for the eyes of his servant to be opened; Hebrews 1 tells us that angels are ministering spirits, and yet we know that angels have form; Jacob in his dream saw the angels of God ascending and descending; Eph.6 tells us that our battle is not against flesh and blood (that's physical), but rather against the "spiritual" forces of evil; See I Cor.15:44.

* See John 1:18; 6:46; 8:38; Ex.24:9-11; So it seems that all the OT appearances of God were pre-incarnate appearances of Christ.

* I Cor.10:4 and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.

* What does it mean to be the "image" of the invisible God? The word means more than "likeness." But we have more evidence than just the word used here. See Heb.1:3a; John 14:6-9; John 10:30; Deut.6:4; Back to John 10:31-33; He is before all things, not *was* before all things. This describes the timelessness of Deity; See John 8:58 ; Heb.7:3); Rom.9:5.

* Conclusion: Jesus is clearly not a sub-god, but the "image" of the One true God.

2. The firstborn over all creation

* What this means? "Prototokos" means pre-eminent

* Why this is so?

- He created all things; John 1:3; Heb.1:10; Isaiah 44:24; Gen.1:1; God creates light on the first day, sky the second, land trees and

plants the third, sun, moon and stars the fourth, sea creatures and birds the fifth, then animals and man on the sixth; See Gen.1:26-27; Mark 4:39-41.

- He created all things for Himself. That sounds selfish, unless of course you're God! See Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7a.

* Conclusion: The Creator has entered the creation by becoming a man. And though a creature He is pre-eminent over creation. WOW!

3. In Him all things hold together

* Heb.1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, *sustaining all things* by his powerful word.

4. He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead

* Not the first one raised from the dead, but the pre-eminent one because He will never die again; see I Cor.15:23.

5. He is supreme over everything

6. All of God's fullness dwells in Him

7. He is the head of the body, the church (Eph.1:22-23)

B. What The Real Jesus Christ Has Accomplished

1. Personal salvation

* There are five biblical terms that describe our salvation. The first term that's used to summarize our salvation is the term justification. In justification, the sinner stands before God as the accused and is declared righteous (II Cor.5:21). The second term is redemption. In redemption, the sinner stands before God as a slave and is granted freedom by a ransom (Gal.4:7). The third term that summarizes our salvation is forgiveness. In forgiveness, the sinner stands before God as a debtor and the debt, having been paid, is forgotten (Col.2:13). Fourth is the term sonship, where the sinner stands before God as a stranger and is made a son (Rom.8:15). Think of it. We stood before God as the accused and He declared us righteous. We stood before God as a slave and He granted us freedom. We stood before God as a debtor and He cancelled our debt. We stood before God as an enemy and He made us a friend. We stood before God as a stranger and He called us a son. Fifth, reconciliation. In reconciliation the sinner stands before God as an enemy and becomes a friend. Peace with God is made (Rom.5:1).

2. Universal reconciliation

* v.20 Heb.9:23; Rom.8:22 ; Satan rebelled, led man into rebellion, and now everything is messed up. The earth is cursed, and the heavens are polluted (Eph.6:12). This is why when we are redeemed God will create new heavens and a new earth (II Peter 3:13; Rev.21).

INVITATION

* Once I receive these truths by faith, a mountain is literally removed from my life. The mountain of sin that weighed me down with guilt is replaced with forgiveness. The mountain of hostility between God and me is replaced with peace. The mountain of separation between God and me is replaced with His Holy Spirit that now lives within me and continually reminds me that I am His child. The mountain of hopelessness I deal with for having a decaying body in a cursed world is replaced with the glorious hope in the Lamb of God who paid a debt He did not owe, because I owed a debt I could not pay.