

THE PREEMINENCE
AND
SUFFICIENCY OF CHRIST



Sermon Series Notes



“Who Jesus Is and What He Did, Part 2” (Col.1:9-23)

Danny Hodges – NT3476

INTRO: Last week we spent most of our time looking at who the real Jesus Christ is. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation, the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead. In Him all things hold together, He is supreme over everything, all God’s fullness dwells in Him, and He is the head of the body, the church. We touched very briefly on what the real Jesus Christ has accomplished. So, I felt it necessary to spend some more time on that point. So this is “Who Jesus Is and What He Did, Part 2.” What has Jesus Christ accomplished in His death, burial and resurrection?

I. PERSONAL SALVATION

A. Forgiveness

* Col.1:14; 2:13-14; Eph.1:7; Luke 5:20; 7:39-50; Acts 10:43; 13:38; Rom.4:7-8; Heb.10:16-18; I John 2:12.

B. Redemption

* From slave to freedom...verse?

* Was a slave to condemnation/guilt (Gal.5:1); fear/death (Heb.2:14-15); sin (verse slaves to righteousness? Rom.6:6-7)...

* Don’t use freedom to indulge the sinful nature (Gal.5:13-14); Serve! (Gal.5:13b); Live in submission to your new owner (Rom.12:1-2).

C. Justification

* I believe there are Christians that have never really come to terms with this truth. See Romans 3:21-24; Acts 13:38-39. Where do the Law and prophets testify to this righteousness from God apart from Law? Rom.3:25-5:2; Gen.15:1-6; 12:7; 13:15; 24:7; 3:15-16, 21; Psalm 32:1-5; Zech.3:1-5.

* This truth is essential, because without it: 1. I can never really be saved (See Rom.10:3-4). 2. I may add something to the gospel (Rom.4:9-10; Acts 15:1-2, 6-

11; I Peter 3:21; Eph.2:8-9). 3. I will always feel condemned/guilty (Heb.9:9; 10:22; Rom.8:1). 4. Nothing I do for the Lord will ever be enough (Heb.10:11-18; Rom.6:15ff; Phil.3:12-14; Rom.7-8a). 5. I may doubt my salvation (I John 5:13; 2:3-6; 3:6-10; Rom.7:21-8:4).

* Just as if I'd never sinned.

* I no longer strive for righteousness but rather from righteousness...II Cor.5:21.

D. Sonship

* Rom.8:15-17a; Heb.2:11

* Give salvation invitation...

* Now we come to our last word related to our salvation, and this one has meaning that you cannot completely comprehend...

E. Reconciliation

* Col.1:21-22; Heb.10:26-27

* Enemies of God will one day experience His wrath. But I have been forgiven, redeemed, justified, adopted, and **reconciled**.

* Reconciliation not only means that I am no longer alienated from God (an enemy), but it means that what God originally intended for me can now be restored. What did God originally intend for me? See Gen.1:26-31; 2:18-25. This was God's original intention, to live naked in paradise with the most beautiful woman in all the world (the only woman in all the world), a perfect marriage partner made just for you, lions and tigers and bears, and monkeys and baboons and zebras and gazelles and kangaroos and elephants and water buffalo and eagles and falcons and peacocks and all those multi-colored birds and dolphins and whales and all the wonderful creatures that God had made...PARADISE! That was God's original intention for man. And you know what, the dream of that kind of world is within each one of us, because God planted it there (Eccl.3:11)...

* Show video presentation of paradise vacations, Disney fantasies, etc. It was God who placed in man the dream of living happily ever after, but because of man's rebellion, God was not able to provide for man what he originally intended. And so now we long for it, but until we come to know Christ, it is just a dream. And though we dream for it, we are filled with fear rather than hope, guilt rather than peace, alienation rather reconciliation. But once we come to know Christ, all that changes. Now the hope of restoration becomes a reality that we long for, and a hope that is as certain as the God who promises it...

II. UNIVERSAL RECONCILIATION

* Acts 3:19-21; Matthew 19:28-29

* Rom.8:19-22 (the groan section: creation, us, and the Holy Spirit all groan about the present state of affairs; expound); Some of us are in fairly comfortable circumstances right now. Enjoy it, because it will not last! We are going to die (Elizabeth Taylor, etc.). We are decaying. But not only are we decaying, the creation is decaying. The word for groaning here is the same word used to refer to the pain of a woman in childbirth. The groaning is painful, but it is filled with anticipation, the anticipation and excitement of the birthing of new life.

* Matthew 24: 8 There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.

* Creation has an eager expectation. It's a very vivid Greek word here. It refers to someone standing up on his tiptoes, sticking his neck way out to see something off in the distance. Nature is on its tiptoes, stretching its neck to see what's coming, waiting expectantly, uplifted heads stretched as far as it will go, ready and prepared for the dawning of a new age. And what exactly is it looking to see? The end of verse 19, "the sons of God to be revealed." The word means an unveiling. All of creation is looking, waiting for the unveiling of the sons of God.

* I John 3:2

* See Psalm 96:10-13; 98:7-9; Isa.35; 55:12-13

* Satan first rebelled against God, then deceived man into following him in his rebellion. And the fall of man had universal consequences. The whole creation is now in bondage to decay, just like our physical bodies. The KJV translates frustration with the word "vanity." The Greek word basically means "futility" or "aimlessness." It has to do with the inability to reach a goal, to fulfill a purpose, the inability to achieve the desired results." In other words, nature can't be what it was made to be. That is why there are earthquakes, tsunamis, crazy collisions in space. That's why stars fall from the sky. That's why the magnetic field around the earth is steadily decreasing. Now don't worry, before it all falls apart (and we learned last week that Christ is the one holding it all together), God is going to begin restoring it. You see, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross reconciles us to God, and as a result reconciles the creation (Heb.9:22-24).

* When God created man, he made him "a little lower than the angels" (Psalm 8:5; Heb.2:7). And God gave man authority in the Garden of Eden (paradise). Adam named all the animals, and the animals were subject to him. So when man sinned, he brought a curse upon not only himself, but all of the creation that God had made subject to Him. Man sinned willingly, voluntarily. But creation was a victim. One day God will create new heavens and a new earth. But before this happens, mankind will get a taste of restoration during the thousand year reign of Christ (Isa.2:4; 9:7; 11:6-9; 65:25) passages on the millennial kingdom). During the thousand year reign, man will not eat animals any longer.

Can I get a witness from the vegetarians in the crowd? And guess what? Animals will no longer eat man! Can I get a witness from anyone who has almost been eaten by an animal? (Any scuba divers out there that have had a close call with a shark?).

* And after a thousand years of witnessing things go from bad to good to better, man will once again rebel against God. Then God will cast all the rebels into the lake of fire (Rev.20:14-15), and will create new heavens and a new earth Rev.21:1-5, 10-22:6; II Peter 3:13.

* Isaiah tells us that when this takes place, it will be so glorious that we will not remember the days of “groaning.”

* Isa.65: 17 See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.

* See Matthew 16:28-17:4. Peter was so taken in by this glorious experience that he forgot about even his own wife and family! So God does not wipe out our memory, otherwise we would forget that Jesus died on the cross to secure our salvation. It is just that our inheritance is going to be so far beyond our imagination we will never remember the sufferings and struggles of the past.

* Martyn Lloyd-Jones wrote: "I wonder whether the phenomenon of the spring supplies us with an answer to this passage. Nature every year, as it were, makes an effort to renew itself, to produce something permanent. It is come out of the death and the darkness of all that is so true of the winter. In the spring it seems to be trying to produce a perfect creation, to be going through some kind of birth pangs year by year. But unfortunately it does not succeed for spring leads only to summer whereas summer leads to autumn and autumn to winter. Poor ole nature tries every year to defeat the vanity, the principle of death and decay and disintegration that is in it, but it cannot do so. It fails every time. It still goes on trying as if it feels things should be different and better. But it never succeeds. So it goes on groaning and travailing in pain together. It has been doing so for a very long time. But nature still repeats the effort annually. But one of these days it's going to dawn in a new era."

CONCLUSION

Oh Lord, may your kingdom come, may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven!

By the way, our marriage partner in eternity is Jesus Christ. Men, we have to take this by faith. There is coming a day when we will experience something better than sex, and it is an eternal union with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In that day, Jesus will never say, “Not tonight, I have a headache.” We will be His bride. He will never force anything upon us...will never rule over us (Gen?)...will always provide for us and protect us...It will be absolute PARADISE!

Can you say Praise the Lord? Hallelujah! Even so, come quickly Lord Jesus!