

## COLOSSIANS 1b

### THE PREMINENCE OF CHRIST

- As we ended last week's study we read in **V 12**: "giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins."
- CCSV, we are thankful that God has seen fit to make us qualified to be partakers of the inheritance of Saints.
- How did He do that? By sending His Son to die for us.
- We are SO thankful that He has delivered us from Satan's power!
- We are forever grateful that He has carried us into the Kingdom, in fact, we ARE the Kingdom!
- We are thankful that through the blood of Jesus we are forgiven of our sins
- The second part of Colossians chapter 1 starts out...

15 He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn (**IE, most prominent; Superior**) over all creation.

- **NLT** - Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,
- What is this teaching us? That Jesus is God. He wasn't created by God like some cults teach. He always was and was sent to earth by human birth...
- Jesus is the visible image of an invisible God, HE IS GOD!
- He was in charge of creation – HE IS GOD! Listen to Hebrews 1:
- **Hebrews 1:1** God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by *His Son*, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of *His* glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than

they.

## **BACK TO COLOSSIANS**

16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

- Jesus created angels AND angels who became demons by their own choice.
- WHY were all things created? V16b – FOR HIM!
- Why was I created? Why were you?

17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. **(Held together)**

- This always reminds me of the Christmas verse from the OT, **Micah 5:2** - "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."
- The only person who could come from everlasting and be born is God... Not only God...

## **WHO IS IN CHARGE AROUND HERE?**

18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn **(Superior)** from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

- Listen, many people were resurrected in the time of Jesus and His Apostles.... BUT.... They all died again. NOT JESUS!
- His resurrection was superior, preeminent, supreme, the best. WHY? He never will die again, and when we join Him, neither will we!

## **PAID IN FULL**

19 For it pleased *the Father* that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace

through the blood of His cross.

- For us believers... Our bill is fully paid, relax!
- Have peace through the blood of His cross.
- Did you lose your way? Did you backslide? Did you blow it?

### **COME BACK**

21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, *(the mind – the real battlefield)* yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight— **IF...**

- I love those commercials where a dental clinic has replaced an ugly rack of broken teeth with movie star like perfect teeth... And the patient can't stop looking at their new grill!
- I think that will be us up in heaven looking at how clean the Lord has made us. Not our teeth but our hearts and minds and our souls...

### **IF...**

23 **if** indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the **hope** of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

- "Man can live about forty days without food, about three days without water, about eight minutes without air...but only for one second without hope." **Hal Lindsey**
- Friends, hang on to the hope of the gospel. Continue in faith! Stay grounded in God's word.
- THEN... Jesus will present you blameless to His Father.

### **PAUL THE HAPPY SUFFERER**

24 I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church,

- Paul loved the Colossians so much he was happy to suffer for them.

- We also owe Paul a thank you for being willing to faithfully suffer for us too.
- I think his suffering gives his writings some very important credentials.
- SO... He is glad to suffer for the church...

## THE CHURCH

25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, 26 the mystery (**revealed truth**) which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints.

- Mystery means “revealed truth” in bible talk. So, what was being revealed to the Saints of Paul’s time? Many things:
  - **The suffering Messiah...** Old Testament believers wanted a crusader for Messiah... His own Disciples expected this... We know Him as the Christ of the cross.
  - The gospel being preached to **Gentiles**. Old Testament believers considered Gentile to be sub-human.
  - **Jewish opposition** to their own Messiah.
  - The **Church age** interrupting the 70 weeks of Daniel...

## ABOUT THOSE SAINTS

27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery **among the Gentiles**: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

### **Christ in you, the hope of glory.**

- In OT times the Spirit would come upon a Saint for a special occasion.
- In NT times, the Holy Spirit lives within every believer.
- In OT times people would travel to the Temple.
- In NT times WE ARE the Temple of God.
- In OT times believers looked forward to redemption, as do we, but...
- In NT times we also look forward to resurrection. We have a resurrected Savior who defeated death and the grave and our enemy!
- HE IS RISEN!

28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

29 To this *end* I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

CCSV, God wants to work in you mightily. He wants to work in me mightily.

He will bring us through suffering and trials so that we too can say, like the Apostle Paul, I rejoice in my sufferings because it will bring someone into the Kingdom!