

CHRISTOLOGY NOTES 8

Discipleship Hour, 8/28/2020

The Truth Defined (1:15-17)

The truth has been declared in 1:1-14. We saw Paul's praise and prayer, closing with the great ending statement:

Colossians 1:13-14 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

We saw that "Redeem" means to buy back from the slave market...

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

That price was the life, the blood of Jesus. Now truth is to be defined in 1:15-2:8 and then defended, desired, and displayed.

Tonight, we do vv.15-20 in which Paul's thanksgiving explodes in his spirit and he sets forth the Christ as absolutely sovereign in all things. In v.15-17 he is supreme over natural creation. In v.18 he is supreme over supernatural creation. In v.19-20 He is absolutely the reconciler of all things both in heaven and on earth.

Colossians 1:15-20 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 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. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, 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.

Colossians 1:15a He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Genesis 1:26-27 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Man was created in God's image but lost the image. Jesus was sent as the "rescuer."

Hebrews 1:3 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,

Colossians uses the word "Eikon" which signifies not just a copy but it assumes a prototype from which it is drawn (e.g. the sun reflected on the water). Hebrews uses the word "Charakter" not ("charagma"). This means not a copy like a statue of a man, but an exact representation. Jesus bears the very stamp of God's nature. He is the exact likeness and therefore can say "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father."

The invisible God is now visible.

All religion that finds its center apart from Christ is not focused or aimed at God. ("No one comes to the Father but by me") Thus, it misses the mark.

He is not only visible but also knowable.

John 1:18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

Colossians 1:15b He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Firstborn = prototokos = prior to all else in the absolute sense. Taken out of context as Jehovah Witnesses do, this could lead to the heresy (error) that because Christ was born, He is a part of creation. (Gnosticism)
However, see the context:

Colossians 1:15-17 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 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. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Colossians 1:16-18 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. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

v.16: All creation was made because of him and for him and even through him. Therefore, the term designates the primacy of the firstborn as sovereign over all else.

“by Him” – the origination of creation

“through Him” – the agency of creation

“for Him” – the goal of creation. Gk. “eis” means toward.

Amen. The whole creation waits with eager longing because He is the source – the force – the course... Jesus Christ is the Alpha and Omega, beginning and end.

All things came to be at his command

All things will come to him at his command

Being made by him they are made for him.

And that according to his pleasure and for his praise

Revelation 4:11 “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”

The import of all this for you is this – the universe can hold no terror for you since your redeemer is the very one by whom and for whom all things exist. They are under the sway and sovereign rule of Him who loves you. His perfect love casts out all fear.

Further, not just the visible but the invisible – the thrones and principalities, rulers of this present darkness, the prince of the power of the air. You are a born again one and the wicked one touches you not.

No matter its origin – heaven or earth!
No matter its existence – visible or invisible!

There is no fear but the fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom. (i.e., you'll act right then)

Colossians 1:17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

v.17 = “He is” = present tense not He was. Paul is saying that the pre existence is an absolute existence. He is The I AM:

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

He is timeless and in Him “all things hold together.” He is cosmic glue – ‘by the word of his power”

Paul’s explosive definition of truth is that:

All is Christ – caused

All is Christ – centered

All is Christ – controlled

Colossians 3:11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ **is** all and in all.