



MONDAY 12 JUNE 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 1:15

Plug In...

In this verse, each word bursts with significance. The 'Son' is the common way the Old Testament refers to the King (i.e. God's son – [Psalm 2](#)). We've worked through the clear prohibition on making images to represent God in [Deuteronomy 4](#). The only legitimate biblical image of God is when a human rules over creation in the way God wants ([Genesis 1:26-28](#)). 'Firstborn' is the one that inherits a father's household and manages its affairs. [Psalm 2](#) again shows the priority of God's Son-King within the world. That Son is installed in prime position, inherits, and manages as He sees fit.

Chew It Over...

Maybe our first thought in this verse is of the Trinity, the Son as the second person of the Trinity. While verses 16-19 go on to explain that indeed God is fully within this Son, Paul here is emphasising something else. What is that emphasis given the role of humanity and the biblical story from Genesis onwards?

Why is Jesus' humanity, and role within humanity as King, important in understanding redemption and forgiveness of sins (verse 14)?

Prayer Suggestion

Acknowledge to God the great let down of humanity's role in the creation you have been a part of. Reflect and then talk to God about His commitment to the creation plan of humanity imaging God to the ends of the earth and yet still including us *sinners* in that end goal.



TUESDAY 13 JUNE 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 1:16-17

Plug In...

A series of pairs are given to scope the absolute dimensions of creation. The pairs underscore the *all* things. Here it asserts that the entire creation, although the plan of the Father, was brought into existence by the power and energies of Jesus. Jesus was prior to all of creation, He sustains all things. He is even the goal of creation: “All things have been created *for him*”.

Chew It Over...

This is a staggering realisation. All things deliberately created and sustained by Jesus. [Even all the powers and authorities (which is a reference to both the good and the bad spirits that exist as part of reality – see [2:8](#), [2:15](#)).] Nothing is an accident, nor an aberration to His intentional power. Nothing is incidental or a by-product (even if given the categories of good and evil). All physical reality, all spiritual reality, has been brought into existence by His powers, abilities, energies.

This is not fluffy, hyped-up language. This is a pragmatic truth to be grasped. And it should be one of the most practical and applicable truths. Especially for those of us constantly scared and buffeted by a wobbly world. It checks us: have we as Christians, lived by the script that things are random? Or, do we live fatalistically – a Christian fatalist that glibly says “Oh well, God is in control”?

Jesus is definitely in control, but this passage shows an absolute, intentional control. Understanding this type of control and intention by Jesus will drive out fear ([Hebrews 2:14-15](#)) and cause us to take with the utmost seriousness all His words. Jesus calling

us to pray for the Kingdom to come, to pray against evil, praying that people turn from darkness to light, actually works – because Jesus said it and Jesus has utter jurisdiction over all reality.

Prayer Suggestion

Again, head to Jesus' cosmic prayer for the Kingdom [*King-domination!*] – [Matthew 6:9-13.](#)



WEDNESDAY 14 JUNE 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 1:18

Plug In...

The image of a body is a metaphor Paul commonly uses to describe the church (e.g. [1 Corinthians 12:12-26](#)). Jesus has supreme position in this group, He's the head. Jesus is described as the beginning of a new order. The new order is those that emerge from the dead. It implies that the first creational order that Jesus is Lord over is characterised by death because of sin. Jesus is also stated as Lord over the next order too. He is supreme in both orders.

Chew It Over...

This is a foundational truth to what Paul will go on to say about what this means for Christians. That is, the Lord of creation, entered physically as a human and died within that creation. He rose from the dead and is part of the new creation order. This means that for those of us bound to die, yet to die, can actually describe ourselves as having our resurrection already begun. By being joined to Christ now we have a resurrection existence.

Think about some things coming up this week. How does your approach to them change if you apprehend that you have an after-death existence guaranteed by Jesus? If you are fearful of something, test yourself as to how much you believe that you will be resurrected. Surely, to be able to say, "You've died, your life is now hidden with Christ in God" ([3:3](#)) actually changes your approach.

Prayer Suggestion

Help us Lord Jesus sense that we have begun our resurrection.



The Lakes

THURSDAY 15 JUNE 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 1:19-20

Plug In...

The Old Testament shows God dwelling with creation is everything in right harmonious order. In the Garden of Eden, God, man, the environment dwelt together. After the Fall, humanity is expelled from God's presence. God no longer dwells with man or creation. God acts to reconcile a state of existence whereby He dwells with redeemed Israel. The dwelling occurs at the point of the Holy of Holies within the tabernacle where sin is atoned ([Exodus 25:8-22](#)). God will later dwell in Zion because that is where the Temple with its Holy of Holies resides ([Psalm 68](#), especially verses 16-18). Zion is in the Promised Land, the land promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to be a place for them to dwell and where God will be with them ([Genesis 26:3](#)).

The language of God dwelling is being applied to Jesus as a human who died and rose again. Jesus is now God's holy of holies on earth (extended through the church). Jesus is the geographical point from which the new creation spreads out.

Chew It Over...

Wow, in our hearts, in our lives, now hidden with Christ, God dwells with us. It is a permanent dwelling place because of the work of Christ.

The gospel message is claiming hearts, and thereby, claiming new creational territory. Keep thinking where you can enlarge the boundaries by sharing the hope held out in the gospel ([Colossians 1:23b](#)).

Prayer Suggestion

Praise God that all of reality is joined together in perfect permanent harmony in Christ.
Thank God that He has included us through Jesus' work. Pray for others you are
burdened that God will include.



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FRIDAY 16 JUNE 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 1:20-23

Plug In...

Reconciliation in this context means everything put back into proper relation to Christ. The reconciliation is cosmic, but does not mean everyone will enjoy blessing. The peace of reconciliation is brought about through the judgement of sin, the suppression of enemies. That is why the basis of it is the moment of the cross where Jesus shed His blood. Again, those continuing to rebel (humans and the spiritual realm) are up for public showing because of the cross ([Colossians 2:15](#)).

Paul applies the beauty of being on the blessing side of reconciliation to the Colossians.

Chew It Over...

What words indicate that it was a remote possibility of the Colossians turning to Christ?

What does the simple reminder of what we used to be without God's initiative and intervention bring to your commitment to God?

Prayer Suggestion

Lord may we not let go of our only hope, that is to be found blameless because of Christ. Thank you for interrupting the course of our life. Continue us, establish us, set us and do not move us from faith in Jesus Christ.



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WEEKEND 17-18 JUNE 2017

SERIES: COLOSSIANS – LIFE IN CHRIST

Read: Colossians 1:15-23

Chew It Over...

Meditating on all this again, it has to be said these truth claims do not seem manifestly apparent. However, the passage does show time frames between the reconciliation in the past and the future manifestation. The three timeframes come together in verses 20-23.

Past – we have been reconciled by Jesus' work on the cross (vv.20-22).

Future – “free from accusation” (v.22b) speaks of the final, future, judgement day. On that day we are acquitted publicly.

Present – we are to continue now with faith in the Lord Jesus until that day. This is important, because all to this has been manifested in Jesus' resurrection, so to be in Christ now, is to have this now although it is also future.

Reflect again on [Colossians 3:3-4](#):

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Prayer Suggestion

From what you've learned from this part of God's Word, how does it inspire you to talk to Jesus?