

a) Rev. 1:5-6, 17-18

What Does Being in Him Mean to Me? (vs. 21-23)

- A. Once alienated, estranged... outside... yet now reconciled.

- B. Paul makes application of this
 - i. 3:3
 - ii. 3:1-2

 - iii. *Let dead things be dead things; you put on Jesus Christ!*

- C. You are free to live differently!

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- Do you ever wonder if you are lacking some ultimate kind of wisdom that will make your life full... as if Jesus Christ and the Gospel were not sufficient?
- Do you ever wonder if you should start living under Jewish regulations? Things like “do not taste, touch...” Celebrating certain days of the week, or year?
- How are we tempted to shift from the hope of the Gospel? What do we make supreme in our lives? What is our Wisdom, rather than Christ? On what do we put our hope?
- If all things were created *in Christ*, how does that provide for His death to be done on the behalf of us as fallen creatures?
- What does it mean for you to be reconciled to God? How does that change everything?

The Gospel Happens in Jesus Christ

Jerry Cisar—November 15, 2009

Text: Colossians 1:15-23

Intro: The Gospel Happens in Jesus Christ

- A. How is it that *in Jesus Christ*, we have redemption?

- B. How can death and resurrection do all this?
 - a) It all depends on Who died!

I. Creation Happens in Jesus Christ (1:15-17)

A. Jesus is the Image of the Invisible God

F.F. Bruce: *To call Christ the image of God is to say that in Him the being and nature of God have been perfectly manifested — that in Him the invisible has become visible.*

- i. Jewish background:
 - a) Prov. 8:12-34

 - b) Wisdom 7:25-26 [Apocrypha]

- ii. *That was a shadow...Christ is the reality!*
 - a) Christ is the personal, not personified, incarnate Wisdom of God—**the image of God.**

F.F. Bruce: *To call Christ the image of God is to say that in Him the being and nature of God have been perfectly manifested — that in Him the invisible has become visible.*

B. He is the Firstborn of All Creation

i. **Highly misunderstood** by non-Christian cults.

a) They ignore the context completely...

b) They ignore the meaning of *firstborn*.

ii. Firstborn was a position of status and rank.

a) Psalm 89:27

b) Exodus 4:22-23

c) Rabbi's referred to the Law as the firstborn of God... His greatest delight!

iii. Jesus is the One through Whom the Universe was made.

a) Hebrews 1:1-3

b) John 1:1-3

c) John 1:15 Jesus surpasses everything!

iv. Paul makes a unique contribution in vs. 16.

C. Why was this so important to the Colossians?

a) 2:11

b) 2:13-14

c) 2:15-16

d) 2:17

It is important for them, and us, to realize that Jesus outranks, predates, takes precedence over the Law. Why go back to that which is inferior! He is before everything by nature of Who He is!

II. Creation is in a State of Hostility Against the Creator

A. This is an inference between vs. 17 and 18.

B. How will He resolve this rupture in the universe?

III. Reconciliation Happens in Jesus Christ (vs. 18-20)

If creation happened in Him, it could die in Him and be raised in Him through faith.

A. The Lord of Creation is the Lord of the Church

B. Who is the beginning, the firstborn out of the dead.