

The Supremacy of Christ | Colossians 1:15-23

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Main Idea

The supremacy of Christ assures us of the sufficiency of Christ.

The Supremacy of Christ

1. The Image of God

- a. "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power." (Hebrews 1:3)
- b. "And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth." (Psalm 89:27)
- c. Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father?'" (John 14:8-9)
- d. "In Christ, God shows us his righteousness, goodness, wisdom, power, in short, his entire self. We must, therefore, beware of seeking him elsewhere, for everything that would set itself off as a representation of God, apart from Christ, will be an idol." (John Calvin)

2. Authority over Creation

- a. "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to ^phuman tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ." (Colossians 2:8)

3. Sovereignty in Sustaining

- a. "The sovereignty of God does not make the pursuit of sinners pointless--it makes it hopeful. Nothing in man can stop this sovereign God from saving the worst of sinners." (John Piper)

The Sufficiency of Christ

1. The New Creation

2. Reconciles All Things

- a. "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21)
- b. "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it." (Matthew 7:24-27)

3. Personal Reconciliation

1. Who we were apart from Christ and who we are in Christ

2. Perseverance in Christ

Benediction | Philippians 2:5-11

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.