

THE GLORIES OF CHRIST—PART 2
COLOSSIANS 1:15-22

Introduction

We said last week that this section on the person of Christ is the answer to all heresy concerning the person of Jesus Christ.

Who is Jesus Christ? He is the Son of God! He is the Emmanuel—God with us! He is the God-man! He is the Redeemer sent by the Father to sacrifice His life for us!

In this passage we see Paul marking out the superiorities or the glories of Christ! Last week we looked at four of these glories. We saw:

- I. *THE GLORY OF HIS PERSON!—He Is The Image Of The Invisible God. (Vs 15)*
- II. *THE GLORY OF HIS POSITION!*
 - A. *He Is The Firstborn Of Every Creature! (Vs 15)*
 1. *He Is The Firstborn Of God In The Flesh!
Of every creature that was ever made, He is the first that was born of God. He is the only one Who was ever begotten of God in the flesh!*
 2. *He Is The Firstborn From The Dead! (Vs 18)
He was the first to arise from the dead to die no more!
We too will arise from the dead to die no more, but Jesus was the first!*
 - B. *He Is The Head Of The Church! (Vs 18)*
 1. *The Head Is The Prominent Position In The Body!*
 2. *The Head Is The Power Position In The Body!*
 3. *The Head Is The Perception Position In The Body!
All five senses find their source in the Head!*
- III. *THE GLORY OF HIS POWER! (Vs 16)*
 - A. *All Things Were Created By Him!*
 - B. *All Things Were Created Beneath Him!*
 - C. *All Things Were Created Because Of (For) Him!*
- IV. *THE GLORY OF HIS PRE-EXISTENCE! (Vs 17)*

This week we want to take a look at 4 additional glories of Christ.

We see:

THE GLORIES OF CHRIST—PART 2
COLOSSIANS 1:15-22

V. THE GLORY OF HIS PREEMINENCE! (Vs 18)

The preeminence means to be first (in rank or influence).

A. He Is Preeminent In Prophecy!

The apostles, throughout the New Testament, appealed to two areas of Christ's life to establish His Messiahship:

One was Christ's resurrection from the dead!

The other was Christ's fulfillment of Messianic Prophecy!

There are over 300 O.T. references fulfilled in Jesus! 60 major prophecies. If just 48 of the 60 were fulfilled in one person, the chances are 1 in 10 to the 157th power!

Romans 1:2-4 “(Which he had promised before by his prophets in the holy scriptures) 3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh. 4 And declared to be the Son of God, with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:”

As he was in the early stages of his ministry, Jesus said: *Matthew 5:17 “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.”*

Regarding the disciples Christ met after his resurrection on the road to Emmaus, it says of Jesus in *Luke 24:27 “And beginning at Moses, and all the prophets, he expounded to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”*

Just prior to Christ's ascension back to heaven, he met with His disciples and here is what *Luke 24:44-46* records:

Luke 24:44-46 “And he said to them, These are the words which I spoke to you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me. 45 Then he opened their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, 46 And said to them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:”

THE GLORIES OF CHRIST–PART 2
COLOSSIANS 1:15-22

He Is Preeminent In Prophecy!

- B. He Is Preeminent In Position! (Matthew 23:8-10)**
John 3:31–“He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.”
- C. He Is Preeminent In Power! (1 Corinthians 15:24-28)**
Matthew 28:18–“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”
- D. He Is Preeminent In Preference!**
(Vs 17 “He is before all things...”)
John the Baptist said this concerning Jesus in *John 1:27– “He it is, who coming after me is preferred before me.”*
- E. He Is Preeminent In Praiseworthiness!**
(Revelation 5:8-14)

Jesus rightfully owns and deserves **first place** in all things!
Can you honestly say that He has **first place** in your life?

VI. THE GLORY OF HIS PLENITUDE! (Vs 19)

Plenitude is another word for *fullness; completeness.*

- A. There Is The Fullness Of His Prudence! (Colossians 2:3)**
His wisdom and knowledge.
- B. There Is The Fullness Of His Personage!**
(Colossians 2:9)
- C. There Is The Fullness Of His Presence!**
(Colossians 2:10)
John 1:16–“And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.
- D. There Is The Fullness Of His Presents! (Ephesians 1:3)**
(i.e. What He has given and continues to give us!)

THE GLORIES OF CHRIST–PART 2
COLOSSIANS 1:15-22

VII. THE GLORY OF HIS PEACE! (Vs 20-22)

- A. Christ Is The Prince Of Peace!**
Isaiah 9:6 said Jesus would be called the “*Prince of Peace.*”
“*Prince*” means “*the head or chief.*”
- B. Christ Is The Procurer Of Peace! (Ephesians 2:13-14)**
Romans 5:1–“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- C. Christ Is The Producer Of Peace!**
Luke 2:14–“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

VIII. THE GLORY OF HIS PROPITIATION! (Vs 20-22)

Note that this is closely related to the Glory of His Peace.
In fact they are inseparable they are so closely related!

To “*propitiate*” means “*to win or regain the good will of; to appease or conciliate.*”

The Greek word translated “*reconcile*” means “*to reconcile fully.*”
This word “*reconcile*”– the first two meanings in Webster’s Dictionary are:

1. *To make friendly again.*
2. *To settle a quarrel.*

Note that man is reconciled to God! God is not reconciled to man!
The one with the problem is **man, not God!**
Man turned away from God to become the enemy of God.

Hebrews 2:17-18–“Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.”

The whole world is made **savable** through Christ’s death!

THE GLORIES OF CHRIST–PART 2
COLOSSIANS 1:15-22

Conclusion

We have been given the ministry of ***reconciliation!*** What does that mean? ***2 Corinthians 5:19*** tells us that God “*hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation!*”

The ministry of ***reconciliation*** is, therefore, preaching the Gospel (good news) of Jesus Christ! What is the good news? What is the Gospel? Paul said in ***1 Corinthians 15*** that the Gospel is wrapped up in the fact that:

1. We are all sinners!
2. Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture, was buried and rose again according to the Scripture!

“***According to the Scripture***” means that this is the way God planned it all along! “***According to the Scripture***” means that God said of old...throughout the Old Testament...what he planned to do regarding redemption through His son Jesus Christ our Lord!

That gets back to the fact of His ***Preeminence***. Remember we said He is ***Preeminent in Prophecy!***

What a glorious plan! What a glorious Saviour we have! What a glorious God that we have! Is this glorious God in your life?