

THIS WEEK, I WILL CELEBRATE GOD'S GRACIOUSNESS TO ME BY...



WEEK 6 – THE PREEMINENCE OF JESUS

PART 3

COLOSSIANS 1:17–20

TODAY'S VERSES:

Colossians 1:15-17

Hebrews 7:16

Hebrews 7:22

1 Corinthians 15:14

1 Corinthians 15:17

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COLOSSIANS 1:17–20

Today we are (continuing) to look at a section of the New Testament that has one of the highest views of Jesus (Christology). C.S. Lewis wrote, *“I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say.”* Many people say they love the teachings of Jesus, but when you tell them the actual teachings of Jesus, they get confused or angry because Jesus’ own words can speak for themselves.

In what ways do we “morph” Jesus into something other than who He really is?

- **The Cosmic Effects of Jesus** - Col 1:17-20 *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.*

The Bible’s purpose is to reveal God to us, because there are many things that we could never know about God unless *He told them to us first*. The Bible is God’s self-revelation to humanity.

How else would you explain the Bible’s purpose?

The Bible also tells us who we are, the reality of our sin, and God’s plan of salvation in Jesus. From the opening of the Bible, we see mankind was made for relationship with God, connection with others, and enjoyment of God’s creation. Henri Blocher writes, *“Curiosity about our beginning continues to haunt the human race. It will not call off the Quest for its origins.”* Redemption in the Bible is not just a spiritual rescue, but God intends to

redeem our relationship with Him, with one another, and our enjoyment of creation itself.

What comes to mind when you think of the word **redemption in terms of God’s work in Jesus?**

The reality of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is central to the cosmic purpose of God redeeming “all things,” including humanity. It is important, because when we trust in Jesus—what He actually did through His life, death, and resurrection—we are no longer in our sins. We have been redeemed by the cosmic work of Jesus on the cross. We get to walk with Him into the fullness of what He has for us until He calls us home and perfects us in all things.

What are you looking forward to at the culmination of Christ?

Paul continues to tell us about how Jesus came in the flesh in order to restore to us His righteousness. We get His righteousness not because we checked the right boxes, but because He is cosmically gracious. Our view of Jesus—who He is, what He accomplished—will be borne out in how we live our life.

How is Jesus’ work being displayed in your own life right now? If in a community group, tell each other how you see Jesus’s work displayed in each other’s lives.

The Bible teaches us that the “fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” This is not a fear that paralyzes us, but a fear that frees us. He’s the God of the universe showing us how He wired the universe to work...and it is in submission to Him that we find life.