

# THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST

## Colossians 1:13-23

### Introduction:

There are many people today who have no hope.

They have no hope of the present and no hope of the future.

They are the most miserable people you will ever come across.

For many of them, they have exhausted themselves over many countless years always trying to make themselves happy and spending lots of money in the process of trying to do so. For them the tiring years have had a grip on them, and brought nothing but dissatisfaction and despair.

There is only so much that they can do to entertain themselves and occupy their wandering minds to buy some temporal happiness. But all too soon it fades from them, and they have to seek happiness elsewhere.

For many of the people in Colosse this was the reality. Religion alone could not buy or bring them happiness.

For a city filled of unbelieving Jews and Gentile, it was the perfect place for the Gospel message to be preached. And so it was that Epaphras a servant and minister of Christ brought the blessed news of the saving Gospel to a city of despair.

As we begin in our text this morning we pick up from verse 12, where we read of the giving of thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

The Apostle Paul then spends some time in the following verses to the end of the Chapter reminding the believers of what Christ has done to make it all possible.

### THE DELIVERER

**<sup>13</sup> Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:**

1. The Colossians feared the unseen forces of darkness; however the Apostle Paul reassures that true believers have been transferred from darkness into light.
2. From guilty to forgiven.
3. The power of darkness was often a term used to describe the hold in which Satan has over a person as a result of unbelief and the power of sin.

- **Acts 26:18** To open their eyes, and to turn them from **darkness** to light, and from the **power of Satan** unto God, that they may receive forgiveness **of sins**, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.
- **Ephesians 6:12** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against **powers**, against the rulers **of the darkness of this world**, against spiritual wickedness in high places.
- **Hebrews 2:14-15** Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;<sup>15</sup> And deliver them who through fear of death **were all their lifetime subject to bondage**.

4. They had been transferred from the power of Satan to the power of God.
5. The power of darkness has such a hold on a person, that they themselves cannot be freed. Although they try as they might they cannot escape its end. Whose end is death and destruction?
6. The power of darkness is so strong that the only one to be able to conquer it was Christ our Lord.
7. As a result it is the Lord who has called us out of darkness and into the light. (1Peter 2:9)

- **1 Peter 2:9** But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of **darkness** into his marvellous light;
- **1 John 1:5** This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no **darkness** at all.

8. It is as a result of believing in the Lord Jesus Christ as one who has triumphed "over all things" that the Father has in our text verse 13, .....translated us or brought us.....into the kingdom of His dear Son.
9. He has literally picked us up out of the dirt (sin) in which we once were, and put us down again into the Kingdom of His Son. A place of righteousness where His Son dwells. It is like the Father of a baby who is helpless and crying, being lifted up and placed into the loving arms of his parent.

## **THE REDEEMER**

### **<sup>14</sup> In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:**

The Apostle Paul quantifies the salvation of the believer by quoting the following.

1. The way of our redemption is Christ.
2. The method of our redemption is through Christ.
3. The means of our redemption was through the sacrificial blood of Christ.
4. The reason for the atoning blood offering was for our forgiveness of our Sins.
5. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins.

1. **Hebrews 9:22** And almost all things are by the law purged with **blood**; and without **shedding of blood** is no remission.

No man is redeemed except by the blood of the Lamb. (Our Lord).

2. **Ephesians 1:7** In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
6. The reason why Christianity is different from all other religions is because it is a free gift. You cannot work for your salvation, as do other religions in vain.
3. **Romans 3:24** Being justified freely by his grace through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus:
7. This is not just a gift, but an eternal gift. One that will outlast anything else.
4. **Hebrews 9:12** Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained **eternal redemption** for us.
8. **The word Redemption**, Can be described as the deliverance, rescue or release, and even the recovery or liberation of someone or a nation. But the biblical use of the word redemption goes so much further as to describe the eternal rescue of the person spiritually.

## **THE VISIBLE GOD**

### **<sup>15</sup> Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:**

1. How many times have you come across or seen a person who looks like a person you know. Yet because you know that they should not be in that location that you have seen them, you say to yourself it just can't be?
  2. Yet your eyes are telling you it must be?
  3. Your curiosity gets the better of you sometimes and you just want to go and ask? Then when you do ask you find out it is not the person you thought it was.
  4. Well in this case in our text this morning here in verse 15, there is no question being asked as to whether this is or is not the same person. It is a statement that says it is.
  5. **"Who is the image of the invisible God"**. In other words it is the very real God who came here in the flesh.
  6. The scripture does not stop there, but the Apostle Paul lets us all know as well as the Colossians that he is the first born of every creature. That of Jesus Christ our Lord. This means that He and God the Father are equal as they are both of the triune God head.
- **Philippians 2:6** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Verse 15 is one of the strongest statements about the divine nature of Christ found anywhere in the Bible. Jesus is not only equal to God as in Philippians 2:6 but He is God.

The following verses that I am going to read indicate further the deity of our Lord.

- **John 10:30** I and my Father are one.
  - **John 10:38** But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.
  - **John 12:45** And he that seeth me seeth him that sent me.
  - **John 14:1-11.**
  - **John 1:18** No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.
  - **John 14:9** Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?
1. It is impossible for the unbeliever to grasp the knowledge of who God is.
  2. They cannot understand that Jesus is God.
- **2 Corinthians 4:4** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

## **THE CREATOR**

It is obvious from the way that the Apostle Paul is delivering the scriptures to us here in our text this morning, that it is an indication that there were many in the church at Colosse who had some different ideas about who Jesus was.

For this reason we see the answers following backing up the deity of Christ and His testament to salvation and the saving grace that He alone has imparted.

**<sup>16</sup> For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:**

The Apostle Paul begins to declare Jesus to all, and His position as Savior and God the creator of heaven and earth.

1. For by him were all things created. This is backed us by other scriptures from John. Such as in John 1:3
  - **John 1:3** All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
  - **1 John 5:7** For there **are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.**
2. Jesus is the author of creation.

- **John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
  - **1 John 1:11** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and **our hands have handled, of the Word of life;**
3. If anyone question you about who Jesus is point them to those verses.

## **THE ETERNAL GOD**

**<sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**

1. Paul takes the opportunity again to reinforce just what he said, and that was that Jesus was before all things. He is not a created human being. But was eternal with the Father and sent from heaven to do His Fathers work.
  2. Many in the church at Colosse placed Jesus as a good man and thought that he was just human and not God.
  3. Sadly, there are still many like the cult religion of (Jehovah's Witnesses) J.W. who see the Lord Jesus in that same light. Not as God, but a good man.
  4. That is why Paul spends the time in this letter to the Colossians to address this issue amongst them.
- Jesus' claim to His deity to be equal with God the Farther is echoed by John.

**John 8:58** Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Before Abraham was, I am.**

1. There can be no question after that statement to say that he was just born of a virgin in the flesh; but yet he was pre-existent with the Father.
2. The reason why the World stays together is because the Lord is holding it together.

## **THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH**

1. Who is the head of the church?
2. Is it the Pope?
3. Is it the King of England?

**<sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.**

1. Every time we are not sure of what is going on in scripture we need to use scripture to interpret scripture. Here in Ephesians we see the case in point.

**Ephesians 1:22-23** And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

**<sup>23</sup> Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.**

2. The resurrection of Christ from the dead proves His immortality.
3. It proves that death has no power over Christ our Lord.
4. His resurrection proves he has preeminence over all things.

## **THE POSITION OF CHRIST**

**<sup>19</sup> For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;**

1. He is Fully divine.
2. He has always been God. (Philippians 2:5-7)

## **Philippians 2:5-7**

<sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup> Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

<sup>7</sup> But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

1. The fullness and adequacies of Christ are later again preached to the Colossian church.
2. The message was clear now as to who the Savior was and is.
3. Who are we to question God the Father as to what he should do.
4. That's perhaps our problem, we don't like what we read, so we question?

➤ **Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.**

## **THE PEACE MAKER**

**<sup>20</sup> And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.**

**<sup>21</sup> And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled**

1. You see until Christ could make peace for the believer we were always at war with the Father.
2. His death and resurrection was our life.
3. His shed blood is what has cleansed us.
4. His reason for doing this is that He loved us, enough for us not to perish under the wrath of God.
5. For by nature we are the children of wrath? By nature God is opposing us? Without the blood of Christ to cover us.
6. It is only His shed blood that can wash away all our sin and our guilt.
7. Truth and reconciliation can only come through Jesus Christ.

- **Romans 5:10** For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.
- **2 Corinthians 5:18-19** And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;<sup>19</sup> To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.
- **Ephesians 2:3** Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.
- **Ephesians 2:12** That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

**<sup>22</sup> In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:**

- **Romans 7:4** Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

## **THE PROTECTOR**

**<sup>23</sup> If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;**

- **Ephesians 3:17** That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,
- **Colossians 1:5-6** For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;<sup>6</sup> Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:
- ❖ Jesus Christ is the “**only**” sufficiency of your salvation, and not only yours but of the whole world.
- ❖ There is “No” salvation in any other name, or any other religion whereby you can be saved.

## **Acts 4:12**

**Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

PRAYER.....Jesus is the Only Way.