

Colossians: The Supremacy of Christ

Colossians 1:19-29 Part 2

In this week's study we will see the continuing theme of the supremacy of Christ from the previous five verses. Last week we discussed Christ's deity and His supreme role in and over creation. We ended that lesson by opening the floodgates of the supreme Christ reconciling man by the blood of His cross. With that said, our goal this week is to look at some of the theology of salvation while also remembering the application of it. All too often we can forget that our salvation, while a blessing to us, is ultimately for God's glory. The format for this week's lesson is a glorious three-part Gospel story seen as follows: We were... but God...so that. This format is a wonderful truth revealed throughout Scripture that I pray will be understood and embraced by you this week.

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Read Colossians 1:19-29

➤ We were. . .

Verse 21 says that we were “. . .once alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works. . .”¹ In what ways were we alienated, or separated, from God?

Is there anyone who was not alienated from God?

Are those seen as separated from God entitled to anything?

Read Ephesians 2:1-3 and Romans 3:10-18 & 23 for more insight.

➤ But God. . .

Define the idea of reconciliation as seen in verses 20 & 21.

What is its relationship to the “*made peace*” in verse 20?

From what did we need restoration?

¹ All scripture references are taken from the NKJV, Nelson publishers.

Read Leviticus 17:11 and Hebrews 9:11-15 & 22 and discuss the importance of the phrase “. . .by the blood of His cross.”

➤ **So that . . .**

Read verse 21-22 again and discuss the following:

What does it mean to be holy?

To be blameless?

To be above reproach?

Do you believe that you are? Why or why not?

Verse 23 can easily be misinterpreted. Does this verse say that we can lose our salvation **if** we don't continue in the faith? Or is this verse an exhortation from Paul **to** continue in the faith?

Discuss the three ways of how to continue in the faith seen in this verse.

Grounded:

Steadfast:

Not moved:

Verse 24--Not only does Paul say he rejoices in his sufferings, but also that he is filling up, or making up, what lacks in Christ's afflictions. What is lacking in Christ's afflictions?

Paul continues on by saying “. . . *for the sake of His body, which is the Church.*”

How does someone suffer for the sake of the Church?

Do you suffer for the body of Christ?

Verse 28—What does it mean to be *perfect in Christ*? How does someone get there?

Also discuss the important role of teaching and preaching in this perfection. Keep in mind that Paul says to do so *“in all wisdom.”* How important is wisdom?

Go back to verses 22b-23. What is the relationship of this perfection to being holy and blameless by continuing in the faith?

To end this lesson, take a moment to look back at a few of the verses we skipped: Verse 23b, primarily the end statement, and verses 1:25-27, 29. In these verses there is a repeated theme of Paul's specific purpose in the Kingdom of God. In verse 25, Paul says his role is ". . . *according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you. . .*"

Do you have a specific role in God's Kingdom?

Does everyone?

If you are not sure, always remember that the core purpose of the Church, a purpose embraced by Grace Church, is the living and teaching of the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. This is a role given to all believers. So, how are you doing? How can you do better?