

Liar, Lunatic Or Lord?

Colossians 1:15-23

Introduction

I The Identity Of Christ

- A. He is the **image** of the invisible God - Jn 12:44-45; Rom 9:5
- B. He is the firstborn over all creation - Ps 89:27
- C. He is the **creator** of all things - Jn 1:1-3; 1 Cor 8:6
 - 1. Things in heaven and on **earth**
 - 2. Things visible and **invisible**:
 - a. Thrones, powers, rulers, authorities - Eph 1:20-21
 - 3. All things have been created by and for Him - Rom 11:36
- D. He is before all things - Jn 8:58
 - 1. In Him all things **hold** together - Heb 1:3
- E. He is the **head** of the body, the church - Eph 1:22-23; 5:23
- F. He is the beginning and the **firstborn** from the dead - Rev 1:5
 - 1. So that in everything He might have the **supremacy**

II The Plan Of The Father

- A. God's pleasure was:
 - 1. To have all His **fullness** dwell in Christ - Col 2:9
 - 2. To **reconcile** to Himself all things - 2 Cor 5:18-19
 - a. Whether things on earth or things in heaven
- B. God's **strategy** for reconciliation:
 - 1. He made **peace** through Christ's blood
 - a. Which Jesus shed on the cross - Rom 5:1

III The Identity Of Mankind

- A. They were **alienated** from God
- B. They were **enemies** in their minds: - Rom 8:7
 - 1. Because of their evil behavior - Titus 1:16

IV The Power Of The Gospel

- A. The divine nature of the gospel
 - 1. **But now** God had **reconciled** them: - Eph 2:12-13
 - a. By Christ's physical body through death
 - 2. **But now** God had presented them:

- a. **Holy** in his sight - Eph 1:4; Heb 10:10; 2 Pt 3:14
 - b. Without blemish - Rom 12:1
 - c. **Free** from accusation - Rom 8:33-34
- B. The conditional nature of the gospel
 - 1. **If** you **continue** in your faith:
 - a. Established and firm - 1 Cor 15:1-2
 - 2. **If** you **remain** unmoved from:
 - a. The hope held out in the gospel - Col 2:6-7
 - C. The universal nature of the gospel - Rom 10:18; Ps 19:1-4
 - 1. It was **heard** by the Colossians
 - 2. It was **proclaimed** to every creature under heaven
 - D. The servant nature of the gospel
 - 1. Paul was a **servant** of the gospel - Eph 3:7-8

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Prior to becoming a Christian, who did you think Jesus was?
2. In Col 1:15-20, Paul refutes the false teachers in Colosse who taught that Jesus was less than God. When did you become convinced that Jesus is more than a moral teacher or prophet – that He was and is actually God?
3. According to verse 22, what was God's objective in reconciling you to Himself? On a scale of 1-10, how eagerly are you embracing these objectives? What, if anything, needs to change for you to cooperate with God's purposes more fully?
4. Verse 23 indicates that the effectiveness of the gospel is conditioned on two things: What are they? Does this mean that salvation is dependent on you? Why or why not?
5. What "before" and "after" story do you see in verses 21-23? What "before" and "after" story do you see in your own life?
6. Using Colossians 1:15-23 as a platform for prayer, take time to worship Jesus Christ for who He is, what He has accomplished on the cross, and for His life-changing work in your life.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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