

Liar, Lunatic Or Lord?

Colossians 1:15-23

Introduction

I The Identity Of Christ

- A. He is the _____ 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 _____ of all things - Jn 1:1-3; 1 Cor 8:6
 - 1. Things in heaven and on _____
 - 2. Things visible and _____:
 - 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 _____ together - Heb 1:3
- E. He is the _____ of the body, the church - Eph 1:22-23; 5:23
- F. He is the beginning and the _____ from the dead - Rev 1:5
 - 1. So that in everything He might have the _____

II The Plan Of The Father

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

III The Identity Of Mankind

- A. They were _____ from God
- B. They were _____ 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 _____ them: - Eph 2:12-13
 - a. By Christ's physical body through death
 - 2. But now God had presented them:

- a. _____ in his sight - Eph 1:4; Heb 10:10; 2 Pt 3:14
 - b. Without blemish - Rom 12:1
 - c. _____ from accusation - Rom 8:33-34
- B. The conditional nature of the gospel
 - 1. If you _____ in your faith:
 - a. Established and firm - 1 Cor 15:1-2
 - 2. If you _____ 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 _____ by the Colossians
 - 2. It was _____ to every creature under heaven
- D. The servant nature of the gospel
 - 1. Paul was a _____ 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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