

INTRODUCTION.

TODAY WE CONCLUDE OUR STUDY OF COL. 1:15-20.

▶▶ As we know, ~ this paragraph ~ is one of the most, ~ if not the most, ~ definitive passages on the Person and work of Jesus in all of Scripture.

AS WE ALSO KNOW, ~ FALSE TEACHERS ~ WERE ATTACKING AND DISTORTING ~ THE Person and work of Christ.

▶▶ And in this paragraph, ~ Col. ~ 1: ~ 15-20, ~ Paul lays out the truth about the Person and work of Jesus, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ in order to counter ~ this assault on and misrepresentation of ~ Jesus' Person and work.

▶▶ Paul presents ten profound and sweeping assertions ~ about Jesus' Person and work.

SO FAR, ~ WE HAVE STUDIED THE FIRST EIGHT PROFOUND AND SWEEPING assertions about Jesus.

▶▶ Just a brief review of them.

1st ASSERTION. ~~ JESUS IS THE VISIBLE EXPRESSION OF THE INVISIBLE GOD.

▶▶ By his person, ~ words, ~ and actions ~ Jesus has revealed the Father to us.

▷▷ Want to know what God is like? ~~ Look at Jesus. ~~ Want to know what God thinks about you? ~~ Look at Jesus. ~~ ¶¶

↪↪ Want to know how much God loves you? ~~ Look at Jesus. ¶¶ 1/13

2nd ASSERTION. ~~ JESUS IS SUPREME OVER ALL CREATION.

▶▶ In Ps. 89, ~ God says of the Messiah, ~ Jesus, ~ "I will also make him the firstborn."

▷▷ Then the psalmist defines what He means: ~~ "the highest of the kings of the earth."

▶▶ "firstborn" ~ means ~ the highest in rank, ~ supremacy. ~~ Jesus is supreme over all of creation.

3rd ASSERTION. ~~ JESUS IS THE SOVEREIGN CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE.

▶▶ "by him ~ all things were created." ~~ "and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created."

4th ASSERTION. ~~ JESUS IS ETERNAL.

▶▶ John's point in 1:1 of his gospel: ~~ "Before the universe was created, ~ Jesus was already eternally existing."

▶▶ Micah said that the Messiah's "goings forth are from long ago, ~ from the days of eternity."

▷▷ Although Jesus was born in Bethlehem, ~~ that was not His beginning.

↳↳ He has existed "from the days of eternity."

5th ASSERTION. ~~ JESUS UPHOLDS THE UNIVERSE BY HIS POWERFUL WORD.

▶▶ Not only is Jesus the Creator of all things, ~ all things continue to exist because of him.

▶▶ Without him, ~ electrons would not continue to circle nuclei, ~ gravity would cease to work, ~ the planets would not stay in their orbits. ⚡ 2/13

6th ASSERTION. ~~ JESUS IS SUPREME OVER THE CHURCH.

▶▶ He, ~ and he alone, ~ is the head of the church.

▶▶ After His ascension into heaven, ~ God the Father officially established Christ as the head of the church.

7th ASSERTION. ~~ JESUS BROUGHT THE CHURCH INTO EXISTENCE. ⇔⇔ JESUS SAID, ~ "I will build my church."

▶▶ After saying that, ~~ Jesus added, ~~ "and the forces of hell shall not prevail against it."

▷▷ Jesus promises us that the church ~ will not be destroyed by the evil powers arrayed against it.

AND THE 8th ASSERTION. ~~ JESUS IS THE FIRSTBORN FROM THE DEAD.

▶▶ This refers to his resurrection and that he is first in time and first in supremacy.

▶▶ I.e., ~ he was the first in time ~ to emerge from the realm of the dead with a glorified resurrection body, ~ never to die again.

▶▶ And by virtue of his resurrection, ~ ↴↴

▷▷ Jesus has been elevated in rank ~ to a position higher than any of the other resurrected dead will experience.

▷▷ After making purification for sins, ~ Jesus sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ~ the author of Hebrews declares.

TODAY, ~ WE'LL FINISH UP WITH THE LAST TWO PROFOUND AND SWEEPING assertions. ↴↴ 3/13

THE 9th SWEEPING AND PROFOUND ASSERTION ABOUT THE PERSON & WORK OF Jesus.

VERSE 19. ~~ FOR IN HIM ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD WAS PLEASED TO DWELL.

▶▶ Paul's point here is this: ~~ God, ~ in all his fulness, ~ i.e., ~ in his full and complete deity, ~ was pleased to take human form in Jesus.

NOW, ~ THIS IS A LITTLE COMPLICATED, ~ I'M NOT SURE I FULLY UNDERSTAND IT, ~ and I'll try to explain briefly.

▶▶ The way Paul words this ~ shows ~ that he is highlighting the work of the Father through the Son ~ in his plan of salvation.

▶▶ When see "God" in the NT, ~ usually it refers to God the Father.

▶▶ What Paul is saying more specifically here ~ is that the Father was pleased that his full and complete deity dwelled in the Son.

▶▶ But we have to be careful in our wording of any explanation of this.

▷▷ For fear it would suggest that Jesus in himself was not fully God to begin with. ~~ That's not what Paul is saying.

▶▶ The verb he uses, ~ "dwell," ~ indicates ~ that this fullness ~ ¶¶

▷▷ was not something added to Jesus' Being that was not natural to Him, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ but that it was part of His essential Being as part of His very nature.

▶▶ It seems ~ that Paul was simply highlighting involvement of the Father in our salvation.

▶▶ The Father ~ God the Son ~ God the Holy Spirit ¶¶ 4/13

ALL THAT SAID, ~~ BOILED DOWN ~~ THE POINT PAUL IS MAKING ~ IS THIS: ~~ ¶¶

▶▶ Jesus ~ is God in human flesh.

▶▶ To put it differently, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ God the Son, ~ in his full and complete deity, ~ stepped onto the historical scene as a human being.

▶▶ In the beginning was the Word, ~ and the Word was with God, ~ and the Word was God.
~~ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

THE BIBLE TEACHES ~ THAT JESUS IS FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN ~ IN ONE PERSON
and will be so forever (more on this later).

▶▶ He has two distinct natures. ~~ He is not half man and half God.

▶▶ Jesus' two natures are not mixed together, ~ nor are they combined into a new God-man nature.

▶▶ And, ~ as Paul points out, ~ his divine nature was not changed when he took on a human nature.

▷▷ God, ~ in all his fullness, ~ became human.

▶▶ He just allowed his humanity to cover his deity. ~~ As Christmas hymn says, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, ~ Hail the incarnate Deity!

IN HIS 9th ASSERTION, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ Paul was refuting at least two, ~ if not more, ~ of the points of the heresy that was threatening the Colossian believers. ¶¶ 5/13

▶▶1st, ~ recall that they believed ~ all matter is inherently evil ~ and only the spiritual and nonmaterial is ~ of itself ~ good.

▷▷And based on their belief that all matter is evil, ~ they taught that ~ God, ~ in Christ, ~ never could have become a human person.

▷▷Their thinking was, ~ if matter is evil, ~ how could God ~ ever be united ~ with a human body?

▷▷But God did exactly that, ~ Paul says, ~ thereby showing matter is not evil ~ and that Jesus is fully God and fully man.

▶▶2nd, ~ the heretics said that Christ was not the unique Son of God ~ 77

▷▷but rather one of many intermediary spirit beings, ~ or angels, ~ between God and people.

▷▷Paul shows that ~ to be totally unbiblical.

▶▶Paul affirmed that God's "fullness" dwells in Jesus alone. ~~ Jesus has always been God ~ and always will be God.

▷▷All of God, ~ including ~ his divine attributes, ~ characteristics, ~ nature, ~ and being, ~ indwells the Son.

▷▷When we have Jesus, ~ we have all of God in human form.

▶▶Any teaching that diminishes any aspect of Jesus, ~ either his humanity, ~ his divinity, ~ or his work ~ is false teaching.

AGAIN, ~ FALSE TEACHERS ~ IN EVERY AGE ~ TRY TO REDEFINE JESUS. 77 6/13

▶▶ They proclaim a Jesus ~ who is not the Jesus of the Bible.

▶▶ E.g., ~ false teachers preach a Jesus who is not quite God and never quite saves, ~ as the cults teach.

▷▷ A Jesus who wants you healthy and wealthy, ~ as preached by many televangelists.

▷▷ Or a Jesus whom you ask into your life to make you feel good.

▶▶ My . . . , ~ we need to be grounded in the truth of the biblical teaching on the Person and work of Jesus.

WHEN WE'RE WELL-GROUNDED IN GOD'S WORD, ~ WE WILL QUICKLY RECOGNIZE THE lies of false teacher.

▶▶ TPID, ~ if we're not well-grounded in God's word, ~ how will we know when we're being lied to?

▶▶ Speaking of the righteous person, ~ David says in [Ps. 37:31](#), ~ "The law of his God is in his heart; his steps do not slip.

▷▷ David says the righteous person has learned God's word, ~ remembers its teachings, ~ and it controls their thinking.

↪↪ And as a result, ~ they do not slip into sin.

▶▶ When ~ we have learned God's word, ~ remember its teachings, ~ and it controls our thinking, ~ we will not fall prey to the false teachers.

GETTING BACK TO VERSE 19, ~ DWELL. ~ PERMANENTLY.

▶▶ Did not leave his humanity behind @ ascension. ~ Son of Man. ~ Forever. 🚫 7/13

AND NOW FOR THE 10th SWEEPING & PROFOUND ASSERTION ABOUT THE PERSON
& work of Jesus. ~ Verse 20.

JESUS IS THE ONE WHO RECONCILES ALL CREATION THROUGH HIS DEATH.

▶▶ Jesus did not come to earth to merely be an example for us.

GOD THE FATHER ~ CHOSE TO SEND HIS SON ~ FOR THE DESIGNATED PURPOSE OF
reconciling all creation, ~ 77

▶▶ and in particular fallen humanity, ~ to himself. ~ 2 Cor., ~ in Christ, ~ God was
reconciling the world to himself.

▶▶ Because Jesus is God, ~ He is able to do what no mere man could ever do: ~ reconcile
lost sinners to the Father.

▶▶ Obviously, ~ the means by which this was accomplished ~ was Christ's sacrificial death on
the cross.

▷▷ He made "peace by the blood of his cross."

JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS WAS NOT martyrdom. ~ It was a substitutionary sacrifice.

▶▶ Is. 53 helps us understand what this means. ~ In that chapter, ~ Isaiah says that Jesus
bore our griefs and carried our sorrows.

▷▷ That ~ "he was pierced for our transgressions; ~ he was crushed for our iniquities; ~
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace."

▷▷ And that the Lord "laid on him ~ the iniquity of us all."

▷▷ Substituted himself in our place. 8/13

▶▶ Jesus' substitutionary sacrifice ~ satisfied God's righteous demands ~ by paying in full ~ the penalty for sin.

▶▶ As the song says, ~ 'Til on that cross as Jesus died ~ The wrath of God was satisfied ~~ For every sin ~ on Him was laid.

▶▶ The enmity that existed between God and a sinful universe has ceased ~ because Christ's death made peace.

▶▶ As Paul says in Romans, ~ "we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

▶▶ Only those who spurn Christ's offer in the gospel ~ are still at war with God.

THE NT DOCTRINE OF RECONCILIATION IS ALWAYS VIEWED AS A RECONCILIATION made to God.

▶▶ "while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son;" ~~ and, ~ 77

▷▷ God reconciled us to himself through Christ, ~ 77

↪↪ Paul declares in Romans and 1 Corinthians respectively.

NOW, ~ IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND ~ 77

▶▶ that reconciliation is not equivalent to salvation.

▶▶ Rather, ~ reconciliation ~ refers to the removal of the barrier between God and humanity ~ through Christ's sacrificial work ~ 77

▷▷ so that God can deal with sinners in a new way.

RECONCILIATION HAS BOTH AN OBJECTIVE AND A SUBJECTIVE SIDE. 77 9/13

▶▶ Objectively, ~ from God's side, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ the barrier between humans and God created by sin ~ has been removed by Jesus' sacrificial death, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ so that ~ the way is open for sinners to come to Him.

▶▶ But reconciliation does not eliminate the need of individuals to respond in faith to this work of God.

▶▶ On the subjective side, ~ people must accept the reconciliation that God has offered.

▶▶ You can look it up and read 2 Cor. 5:18-21 for reference on this.

▷▷ The idea is set forth there, ~ where people whom God has reconciled (v. 18) ~ are then urged to be reconciled to God (v. 20).

▶▶ Jn. 3:16 points this out as well.

▷▷ "For God so loved the world, ~ that he gave his only Son ~ [God's gracious provision], ~ that whoever ~ [universal provision, ~ i.e., ~ available to all] ~ [objective] ~ ¶¶

↳↳ But one has to believe in Jesus ~ i.e., ~ to apply God's gracious provision to him/herself ~ [subjective]: ~ ~ ¶¶

→→ "that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

▶▶ The NT doctrine of reconciliation does not teach universal salvation.

▷▷ It just means that the way is open for sinners to have eternal life.

UP UNTIL NOW, ~ WE HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT RECONCILIATION IN RELATION TO humanity. ¶¶ 10/13

▶▶ But in [verse 20 of Col. 1 \(P\)](#), ~ 77

▷▷ Paul says that God chose to send his Son ~ for the designated purpose of reconciling all creation.

▶▶ He says, ~ "all things, ~ whether on earth or in heaven."

▷▷ I.e., ~ the whole created universe, ~ both humanity and creation.

▶▶ IOW, ~ reconciliation also includes the created universe apart from humanity.

▶▶ The scope of reconciliation ~ is cosmic ~ as well as personal.

BUT IN WHAT SENSE ~ DOES RECONCILIATION INVOLVE THE CREATED UNIVERSE apart from humanity?

▶▶ Scripture teaches us that the natural creation was subject to and groans under God's curse.

▷▷ All of nature was subjected to decay and death and longs to be released.

▶▶ But Scripture also teaches that eventually the curse will be removed as a result of Jesus' sacrificial death.

▷▷ Over in Romans, ~ Paul says that the creation looks forward ~ 77

↳↳ to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from decay and death.

▷▷ There will be "[new heavens and a new earth](#)," ~ as Peter tells us.

▷▷ And the apostle John saw the new heaven and new earth in one of the visions God gave him, ~ recorded in Revelation. 77 11/13

▶▶ In some way, ~ therefore, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ Jesus' death on the cross has dealt not only with the guilt ~ but also with the defiling consequences of sin.

▶▶ All of creation, ~ Paul says in [Col. 1:20](#), ~ has benefitted from the cross.

NOW, ~ WE MUST NOT PASS BY THE WORD "PLEASED" HERE WITHOUT commenting on it.

WE'VE ALREADY READ IN VERSE 19 ~ THAT THE FATHER WAS PLEASED THAT HIS FULL and complete deity dwelt in his Son.

▶▶ But when we read [verse 19](#) with [verse 20](#), ~ we see grammatically ~ that the Father was also pleased ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to reconcile all things to himself through His Son.

▶▶ We mustn't think that God unwillingly provided salvation for us.

▶▶ Or that Jesus grumbled throughout his earthly ministry.

▶▶ As the Christmas hymn continues, ~ "Pleased as man with men to dwell, ~ Jesus our Immanuel."

▶▶ Loved ones, ~ this is a most amazing truth.

▷▷ We ~ had sinned against God. ~ We ~ had broken his law. ~ We ~ were his enemies. ~ We ~ were alienated from him.

▷▷ He ~ was under no obligation to save us, ~ and had every right ~ to condemn us to a Christ-less eternity. ¶¶ 12/13

▷▷ And yet, ~ it pleased him to reconcile all things to himself through His Son.

▷▷ And it pleased Jesus, ~ God the Son, ~ to become man and die for us.

▶▶ Recall that the author of Hebrews tells us Jesus endured the cross, ~ 77

▷▷ the most cruel and disgraceful of deaths, ~ having disregarded the shame of it, ~ 77

↳↳ i.e., ~ ignoring the shame ~ and not allowing it to dissuade Him ~ or cause Him to waver.

▷▷ And then the author tells us that Jesus did it ~ "for the joy that was set before him."

↳↳ Jesus went to the Cross because of the joy it would bring.

↳↳ He looked right through the cross to the coming joy, ~ part of which was the joy of bringing salvation to those he loves.

▶▶ Amazing love

CONCLUSION.

AMAZING LOVE! ~~ HOW CAN IT BE

▶▶ That Thou, ~ my God, ~ shouldst die for me!

LET'S PRAY 13/13