

# CALVARY BIBLE CHURCH

Studies in the Book of Colossians - #3

Date: April 25, 2010

Text: Col. 1:15-29

Speaker: Dennis L. Finnan, Sr. Pastor

## THE IMAGE OF GOD

**INTRODUCTION** Now that the preliminary opening remarks have been made, Paul is anxious to get down to basics – that is the false teaching that was making inroads into the minds of the Colossian believers. As with almost all false cultic teachings the errors are mainly in the doctrine of Jesus Christ. Here Paul set's the record straight for all centuries of man. Paul affirms the absolutely deity of Jesus Christ as Creator, and Sustainer of the universe! Also he tells the Colossian believers of the purpose of His coming to heart and what each follower of Christ is to do once they become a Christian. Thus we see...

### I. The Absolute Deity of Christ – (1:15-20a)

- A) His Person – *“Christ is the Creator of all things”*
- B) His Power – *“Christ is the Sustainer of all things ”*
- C) His Purpose – *“Christ is the Reconciler of all things”*

### II. The Agonizing Death of Christ – (1:20b-22)

- A) What it Bought – *“Christ’s death bought peace with God”*
- B) What it Brought – *“Christ’s death cancelled our bondage to sin”*

### III. The Animate Demands of Christ – (1:23-29)

- A) Perseverance – *“That we continue to grow in our faith”*
- B) Proclamation—*“That we proclaim Jesus Christ to everyone”*

**CONCLUSION:** The Lord Jesus Christ has forever reconciled us to God, and through His death, burial and resurrection, we have become new creatures. Now we are to allow the Spirit of God to mold us, perfect us, and direct us into this new life and see the marvelous transformation it brings. God is preparing us for our heavenly occupation through this transforming power. Thus, Heaven is more than a destination - it is a motivation because Christ lives within. It is a living hope (1 Pet. 1:3) that affects how we think and act all day long. Because Christ is within us, we need to dedicate our lives and living to honor and obey all that Christ directs. How's this process going in your life?

## TEXT FOR MESSAGE

*The New International Version*

**Col 1:15-29 (NIV)** "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20a and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven,

20b by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. 21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—

23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant. 24 Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. 25 I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness-- 26 the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. 29 To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me."