

Colossians 1:15-23

Jesus Christ: His Excellencies, His Mission and You

Sermon Outline for October 18, 2015 By Pastor Dennis R. Tuuri

A. ¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

¹⁶For by [in] Him [were created] (past)

[all things]

that are in *heaven*

and that are on earth,

visible

and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.

All things

through Him and for Him [were created]. ("for him" implies present sustenance and goal)

(in, through, for – locus.sphere, means, goal of the entire cosmos)

¹⁷And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

B. ¹⁸And He is the head of the *body*, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. ¹⁹For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰and by Him to *reconcile* all things to Himself, [in, by, for; locus, agency goal]

C. having made peace *through the blood of His cross*.

[by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven,]

B'. ²¹And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has *reconciled* ²²in the *body* of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—
[sacrificial and judicial language]

A'. ²³if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to *every creature* under *heaven*, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Comments

1. Sung creed, Christology, Luther's Sung Creed
2. Jesus Christ and God, Creation, Church, New Creation, Colossae
3. John 1 rewrites Genesis 1, as does Colossians 1
4. Bookends
5. We, like the Colossians, need to know the supremacy and centrality of Jesus Christ
6. Inconceivable but eternal facts, outside of time and yet inexorably tied to time,
8. 7. Adam was made in the image of God, Jesus IS the image of God!!
9. Christ the Image bearer and Us 1 Corinthians 15:49; Romans 8:29
10. Heb. 1:1-4; Jn. 1:18 Jesus reveals who God is (the God of utter self-giving love)
11. Firstborn – Ps, 89:20-30
- 12, Above Threatening Powers – Eph. 1:20,21
- 13, No brute factuality
- 14, Earthquakes and New Creation
- 15, Blood sacrifice
- 16, Mall of America – You Are Here
17. They must now take responsibility for their maturation in the faith
18. Continuance is the test of reality
- 19, Blueprint for genuine humanity, What true humanness really means