

## Colossians – Chapter 1:15-29

Primary theme of the epistle is the Preeminence of Christ

Paul is correcting false teachings that are called “gnostic”

The Gnostics maintained:

1. Spiritual perfection was attained through secret knowledge
2. Spiritual perfection was attained through worship of angels
3. Spiritual perfection was attained through Jewish legalism, ceremonies, rituals, traditions
4. Stars, and planets and the solar system impacted human life – horoscope
5. They denied the incarnation and divinity of Christ
6. They denied His work on the cross as being complete
7. Jesus was one of many emanations of God

Paul is going to challenge these beliefs in this Epistle.

Vs. 15

- Jesus is the exact representation of God
- John 1: 14-18
- John 14:9 – seen me seen the father
- Romans 8:29 – firstborn

Vs. 16

- All things created, heaven and earth
- Visible and invisible
- Thrones, dominions, and powers all created by Him
- Nicene Creed
- John 1:1-4
- Hebrews 1:1-4
  - He is heir of all things
  - Through the Son all things were made
  - He is brightness of God’s glory
  - He is the image of the Father
  - He upholds all things by His power
  - He made purification for sin
  - He sat down on Majesty on High
- Philippians 2:5-11
- Laminin
- 2 Peter 3:6-13

Vs. 18

- Head of the body, the church

- The beginning and the firstborn from the dead
- That in all things He might have PREEMINENCE – word only used here in NT

Vs 19

- The sum of all God's power and attributes were in Jesus
- Colossians 2:9

Vs 20

- Made peace with God
- Reconciled all things in heaven and earth
- We can not make peace with God – He did it for us
- We contributed nothing to our salvation – done for us on the cross
- We do contribute to the kingdom as ambassadors – 2 Corinthians 5:19-22

Summary of verses 15 – 20

- Christ is the exact replication of the Father
- Christ created all thing
- Christ is the head of the church
- Christ made peace for us with God and reconciled us to God through the cross/His blood

Vs 21 - 22

- We were enemies
- We were alienated
- We were reconciled through His death
- We are holy, unblameable, and beyond reproach

Vs 23

Once you know stay steady and unmovable – the false teachers want to move you away from the hope of the Gospel.

Vs 24 - 25

Paul's suffering came about when he was arrested in Jerusalem – Acts 22:21-28 His crime was ministering to the gentiles.

Vs 26 – 27

- Mystery hidden but now manifest
- Gentiles included
- Christ in you the hope of glory
- Acts 10:38 – 48

Vs 28 -29 This is the goal of all preaching, teaching, and discipleship: to present everyone perfect in Christ.