

Lesson Three¹

Colossians 1:15-16

(He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.) ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

Review

Epaphras became a Christian under the ministry of Paul in Ephesus. When he returned to Colossae, he shared the gospel there and taught the believers. False teachers were troubling the new believers. This letter was written to the Colossian believers to correct the lies and add to their understanding of who Jesus is and what He accomplished for them. In this lesson we consider how great is the one Who has accomplished such things.

*¹³For **HE** has delivered us from the power of darkness and (HE has) conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love
This **ONE** who delivered us from the power of darkness ...*

The emphasis is on HIM.

- *HE has done these things, and HE is God.*
- *What HE does remains done.*
- *Let us focus on JESUS.*

- *There are many Gnostics within the church today who teach we need to get a higher revelation.*
 - *We don't need a HIGHER revelation than JESUS!*
 - *HE is God's last word to us!*

14 IN WHOM (in Jesus) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins

- *The emphasis is on JESUS.*
- *HE has redeemed us with HIS blood...not ours!*
- *What HE does remains done because HE IS GOD.*

Preach JESUS!

- *There are many in the body of Christ today who teach that the cross was only a starting line for obtaining or maintaining our salvation.*
- *Only JESUS can save us, and only JESUS can keep us until the day of salvation.*
- *The cross was the "It is finished" line.*

It's ALL about who JESUS is and what HE accomplished, not some supposed secret

^{1 1} Unless otherwise noted, Bible verses are from the NKJV or NASB


and higher revelation only available to the elite, and our relationship with Him is based on Who He is and what He accomplished, not our compliance to the law or works.

Colossians 2:9-10

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; ¹⁰ and you are COMPLETE in Him, Who is the head of all principality and power.

Who He Has Made Us

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Saints v1 | 10. Fruitful in every good work v10 |
| 2. Faithful v2 | 11. Strengthened with ALL might according to His glorious power v11 |
| 3. Brethren v2 | 12. Thankful v12 |
| 4. Loving v4 | 13. Partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light v12 |
| 5. Hopeful v5 | 14. Delivered from the power of darkness v12 |
| 6. Fruitful v6 | 15. Conveyed into the Son of His love |
| 7. Filled with the knowledge of His will v9 | 16. Redeemed by His blood v14 |
| 8. Those who walk worthy of the Lord v10 | 17. Forgiven of sins v14 |
| 9. Those who fully please Him v10 | |

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

A. JESUS IS THE VISIBLE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD.

1. **Image:** (eikōna) *likeness*, that is, (literally) *statue, profile*, or (figuratively) *representation, resemblance*: - image.

AMPLIFIED:

[Now] He is the exact likeness of the unseen God [the visible representation of the invisible]

2. **Jesus reveals the Father to us.**

John 1:18

No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

John 1:18 Amplified

No man has ever seen God at any time; the only unique Son, or the only begotten God, Who is in the bosom [in the intimate presence] of the Father, He has declared Him [He has revealed Him and brought Him out where He can be seen; He has interpreted Him and He has made Him known].

Hebrews 1:3a

And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature.

3. **When we look at the life of Jesus in the gospels we get a clear and exact view of what our Father is like.**

John 14:8-9b

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

⁹ *Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father."*

a. His Attitude Toward:

1) Self-righteousness

Luke 18:9-14

Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, ‘God, I thank You that I am not like other men—extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.’ ¹³ And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

2) Hypocrisy

Matthew 23:13-15

“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in. ¹⁴ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows’ houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. ¹⁵ Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

3) Sinners

Mark 2:16

And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, “How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?”

John 8:10-11

When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, “Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said to her, “Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more.”

4) His Own (Us)

John 13:1

Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He loved them to the end.

John 15:9

As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide (stay, remain, abide, stand) in My love.”

5) His Compassion for the Lost

Matthew 9:35

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

6) His Willingness to Heal

Matthew 8:2-3

And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, “Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.” ³ Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, “I am willing; be cleansed.” Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

7) His Love for Mankind on the Cross

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

8) His Offer of Rest

Matthew 11:28

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

9) His Command to Love Each Other**John 15:12**

This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

13 Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.

10) His Joy**John 15:11**

These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

11) His Encouragement to Believe**Mark 11:24**

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

John 16:24

Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

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

A. Jesus is the firstborn of all creation. This does NOT mean Jesus was created, but reflects His position is over all created things as their Creator.

Hebrews 1:6

And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.


*The word "firstborn" is prōtotokos. The Greek word implied two things, **priority** to all creation and **sovereignty** over all creation. In the first meaning we see the absolute **pre-existence** of the Logos. Since our Lord existed before all created things, **He must be uncreated. Since He is uncreated, He is eternal. Since He is eternal, He is God.** Since He is God, He cannot be one of the emanations from deity of which the Gnostic speaks, even though He proceeds from God the Father as the Son. In the second meaning we see that He is the natural ruler, the acknowledged head of God's household. Thus again, He cannot be one of the emanations from deity in whom the divine essence is present but diffused. He is Lord of creation. - Wuest's Word Studies - Volume 1*

B. THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST IS IRREFUTABLE.

1. Jesus declared Himself to be God (Jn. 8:52-58, Jn. 5:17-18, Jn. 10:22-33).
2. Jesus performed thousands of miracles.
3. Jesus had authority to forgive sins (Lk. 7:48, Lk. 5:20-21, Lk. 23:43)
4. Jesus lived a sinless life (1 Pet. 2:22).
5. Jesus accepted worship. (Rev. 22:8-9, Acts 12:21-23. Mt. 2:11, Mt. 8:2-3, Mt. 9:18, Mt. 14:33, Mt. 15:25, Mt. 28:9, Mt. 28:17, Lk. 24:52, Jn. 9:35-38)

6. Jesus rose Himself from the dead (Jn. 2:18-22).
7. The Scripture declares Him to be God (Jn.1:1).

C. One cannot claim to be God and be either good or a prophet. He must either have believed that He was God, meaning He was delusional, or He had a master plan to deceive mankind which would make Him evil, or He was who He said He said He was, God in the flesh.²

 ¹⁶ ***For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.***

The words, "thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers" refer to both holy and fallen angels, to demons and man. Vincent says; "The passage is aimed at the angel-worship of the Colossians; showing that while they have been discussing the various grades of angels which fill the space between God and men, and depending on them as media of communion with God, they have degraded Christ who is above them all, and is the sole mediator."-Wuest

A. We are not to worship angels. Angels are NOT mediators under the New Covenant. Jesus is our only mediator!!! Period.

Hebrews 1:4-6

Having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. ⁵ For to which of the angels did He ever say:

"You are My Son. Today I have begotten You"?

And again:

"I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son"?

⁶ But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says:

"Let all the angels of God worship Him."

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.

So, let us look again at Colossians 1:15-16

Colossians 1:15-16

(He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.)

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

² Summarized from C.S. Lewis, "Lord, Liar, or Lunatic".