

Is Jesus God? And Why Does It Matter?

Colossians 1:15-23

Today we continue our new series on Paul's letter to the Colossians. In the middle of chapter one, Paul explains the truth of who Jesus is—and why it matters.

This passage consists of two paragraphs:

1. Paragraph 1 begins with "**He is...**" (Col 1:15-1:20)
 - In other words, "Here's the truth about Jesus..."
2. Paragraph 2 begins with "**And you...**" (Col 1:21-1:23)
 - In other words, "Why the truth about Jesus matters..."

1. "He is..." (1:15-20)

1. The Image of The Invisible God (1:15)
2. The Firstborn of All Creation (1:15)
3. The Creator and Sustainer of All Things (1:16-17)
 - Compare with Genesis 1!
4. The Head of the Church (1:18)
5. The Firstborn from the Dead (1:18)
6. The Fullness of God (1:19)
 - Fullness: Not partial, and not temporary. God became man!
7. The Reconciler (1:20)

2. "And you," (1:21-23)

1. *What happened?* You have been changed! You are no longer alienated, hostile evildoers.
2. *How did it happen?* You were reconciled through His body of flesh, His death on the cross. This changed you!
3. *Why did it happen?* God wanted you to be holy and blameless before Him— saved from yourself and God's wrath!

A final loving warning, "If indeed you continue in the faith..." (1:23)

To the Lord's Supper: Reflections on the deity and the death of Christ

- God didn't hire someone else to do the job.

For Reflection and Application:

1. Read Colossians 1:15-23. In the first paragraph, seven truths about Christ are taught.
 - What are they? What does each of them mean?
 - How is each of them relevant to your life?
2. In the second paragraph (1:21-23), Paul describes how Christ makes a difference.
 - How does Christ change the way we think and feel? (1:21) How and why is this the case?
 - After emphasizing Jesus' deity, Paul is now clear that Jesus had a physical, human body (1:22). Why is this important?
 - Consider the loving warning about "shifting from the hope of the gospel" in 1:23. Why is this necessary?
3. Pray through the passage. Let the passage teach you and bring your response to the Lord.