

## Who is this Man?

Colossians 1:14-20

Even though His name was not specifically mentioned in the verses that we read this morning, we all know that this passage refers to Jesus, the Savior of the world. No one else who ever lived has made such an impact on the world. His life, words, and works stand above all others. Never has a man so changed the lives of others as Jesus Christ. He spoke with wisdom that no man ever possessed. He lived a life of complete holiness that none were able to do before or since. His works stand as a testimony to all He is, the eternal Son of God.

He died upon a Roman cross some 2,000 years ago and yet He is changing lives today. The hope that Jesus brought to the world is available to all. In a world that is ever changing, with men searching for some means of security and stability, Jesus is the One constant that will never change. He alone can provide what we all so desperately need. It would be impossible to exhaust all that Jesus is. John said that if all His words and works had been recorded, the world itself would not be able to contain the books that would be written. I want to take a few moments this morning and consider the divine [attributes](#) that are revealed concerning Jesus in these verses as we think on: [Who is this Man?](#)

**I. The Provision of Christ** (14-15) – There have been those who have made great contributions to humanity, but none have provided what our Lord has. This provision is not restricted to the wealthy or the elite; it is available to all who will come to Him by faith. Let's consider His provision.

**A. His Redemption** (14a) – [In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins](#): Jesus is the source of our redemption. It was through the blood that was shed on the cross that we have been offered redemption. This is an interesting concept. When we are saved, there is much that takes place. Each of us was born in sin, separated from the Lord. We were slaves to sin and at enmity with God. In His loving mercy, Jesus gave Himself on the cross, in our place as our Substitute, that we might be saved from sin.

- Redemption literally has the idea of paying a ransom for one who is in bondage. When we were in sin, we stood condemned before God, owing a debt that we could never pay. If there was to be any hope of being set free, the ransom had to be paid. Jesus was the only One who was worthy to pay that debt. He was the only One who could redeem us from the awful debt that we owed. As He bled and died on the cross, redemption was made available. As I believed by faith in the Lord, He purchased me from the slave block of sin and proclaimed

that my debt was paid in full! I no longer stand accountable for the debt of sin that was laid at my charge.

**B. His Reconciliation** (14b) – [even the forgiveness of sins](#): As I said, there is much that takes place at salvation. It would have been enough to have pardoned the debt that I owed. That in itself is a gracious offer. The saved are no longer accountable to God for the debt of sin that they owed. We don't have to fear the judgment of God. But, there is more to salvation than just redemption. We are pardoned from the debt, and we are also reconciled to God.

- You see as long as we remain in our sin, we are separated from fellowship with God. We don't have the ability to commune with Him. But through the blood of Christ, we are now able to enjoy that fellowship. Our sin has been forgiven. It has been released, let go, and forgotten. I am no longer a slave, but a son. I am no longer an outcast, but an heir of God. I have been adopted into His family, reconciled to God! [Rom.4:7-8 – Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.](#)

**C. His Reflection** (15) – [Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature](#):

Throughout the ages of time, God has been a mystery to men. They saw the effects of His presence. They beheld the power that He possessed. They enjoyed the goodness that He gave. They believed that He was a God of absolute power and authority, but their minds could never fully grasp the essence of God.

- Who is He? What does God look like? What must it be like to have no beginning and no end? As Jesus stepped out of eternity and took on the form of a man, He revealed God to the world. God became Man but never ceased to be God. Jesus was fully God and fully man, the eternal God-Man. In His life we see the essence of God revealed through life lived as a Man.

- We find both perfect humanity and perfect deity. As Jesus slept on the boat, we see His humanity. When He stood and rebuked the winds and waves, we see His deity. As He stood before the tomb of Lazarus, His humanity wept, but His deity cried, Come forth! On the cross, in humanity He died, but in deity He rose!

- Through the life of Jesus, we can see God. Through eyes of faith, as we read the Word, we get a beautiful picture of God. He is a God of power, mercy, peace, provision, and grace. We may look through eyes of faith today, but there will come a day when we shall see Him as He is! Jesus came to redeem us from sin, and also to reveal God to us. Aren't you glad that we can see the invisible God through Christ the Son?

## **I. The Provision of Christ** (14-15)

**II. The Power of Christ** (16-17) – Not only do we serve One who is matchless in His provision, we serve One who is omnipotent, all powerful.

**A. His Creation** (16a) – *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible,* What a statement the Bible makes in regard to creation. In the scientific arena, the jury is still out. We've all heard the Big Bang theory. Even in Paul's time there was the view of the Gnostics that claimed that the universe was created by a god, but that he put it all in place and then stepped aside and allows the world to run its own course.

- We know the Genesis account of creation declares God as the Creator of the heavens, the earth, and all that inhabits it. Here we find the declaration that Jesus, the second Person of the Godhead, stands as the Creator. This isn't the first or only NT passage that confirms Christ as Creator. *Jn.1:3 – All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.* *1 Cor.8:6 – But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.*

- Clearly Jesus possessed power in and over Creation. The heart of Christ desired the world. The mind of Christ planned the world. The will of Christ destined the world. The Word of Christ created the world. He created *all things, those in heaven and earth, visible and invisible.* From the smallest particle of dust to the greatest star, from the most beautiful and brilliant landscape, to the untold vastness of space, from the familiar things that we all see to the things that exist unknown to man, Christ created it all!

**B. His Constraint** (16b) – *whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:* The power of Christ isn't just limited to the physical aspect of creation. The view of the Gnostics is unbiblical. He not only created all things, but He also controls all things! This includes those things in the social spectrum as well. Jesus has the power to establish thrones and kingdoms; He has power over principalities and powers.

- It may seem as if the world and even our nation are spiraling out of control. As Christians we stand dismayed at the condition of things today. What we often fail to realize is that Jesus is still in control. Whether we are happy with the election results, the emphasis of government, or the advance of sin and immorality in our day, we must remember that the Lord remains upon His throne and He has allowed all things that have come to be or they would not exist.

- In the midst of our despair, we can rejoice that our Lord is in control and there is nothing that is beyond His ability to perform. This wicked world had better enjoy its day of dominance; it will not last! These are allowed for a season, but He will return to enforce righteousness.

**C. He Consistency** (17) – *And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.* Here again we find biblical evidence to refute the Gnostic's claim. He not only created and controls this universe; He keeps it all together. *By Him all things consist.* All things are placed together, set in place, and held together. Jesus created it all, placed everything in its proper position, and holds it together by His power!

- Have you ever considered what keeps the earth in orbit? What keeps us from speeding uncontrollably through space? What has prevented the total destruction of earth from asteroids or other large space debris? What keeps our bodies working in perfect order? Jesus is keeping it all together. Lightfoot said, "*Jesus Christ is the principle of cohesion in the universe. He impresses upon creation that unity and solidarity which makes it a cosmos instead of a chaos.*"

### **I. The Provision of Christ** (14-15)

### **II. The Power of Christ** (16-17)

**III. The Preeminence of Christ** (18-19) – Lastly we see the preeminence of Christ. This isn't something that we do for Him. Jesus doesn't hold this position because we have given it to Him. He has a preeminent position because of who He is! *Phil.2:9 – Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:* We find that:

**A. He is Lord** (18a) – *And he is the head of the body, the church:* He is the Bridegroom; we are the bride. He is Lord and Master of the church. He is the Head from which all wisdom flows. All that we do ought to be in accordance with the will of the Lord. Without the head, a body will die. The same holds true for the church. Without the Lord we will never survive. We cannot live apart from the Lord.

- I pray that we will submit ourselves to the sovereign authority of our Lord. The head reads the messages sent from the body. It is aware of every aspect of the body, sensing pain, fatigue, hunger, joy, sorrow, fear, etc. Jesus is aware of every detail of the church and is always in control!

**B. He is Life** (18b) – [who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead](#); Jesus is the [beginning](#). He is the source for all we see and know. There has never been a time when He wasn't and there will never be a time when He ceases to exist. He is the beginning of life, the beginning of the church. He is the foundation upon which the body is built and which we build our personal lives.

- He is also the [firstborn from the dead](#). The word firstborn comes from the Greek word *protokos*, from which we get our word prototype. He was the first of His kind, the pattern all others must follow. There were those who died that He raised from the dead, but they all died again. Jesus rose victorious over death, to die no more. He is preeminent in life. Because He lives, we have the promise of life eternal. [1 Cor.15:20 – But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.](#)

**C. He is Limitless** (18c) – [that in all things he might have the preeminence](#). Jesus holds the preeminence in all things. There isn't a thing that He doesn't have control over. Sin held mankind captive, but Jesus overcame death. God has forever settled His preeminence in heaven. He is right now King of kings and Lord of lords.

- However, we have a choice. We don't make Him Lord, but we must allow Him to Lord over our lives. Jesus must have the preeminence in our lives as well. His authority is settled in heaven, but what about in your heart?

**D. He is Light** (19-20) – [For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell](#); [20] [And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven](#). Jesus is all that God desired Him to be. He came to this earth, lived as a man, and fulfilled all that Adam failed to accomplish. Jesus is in no way deficient in wisdom, power, righteousness, or grace. He is the very essence of God and the example for all to follow!

- When we want to please God the Father, we need to become more like the Son. In Jesus dwells the fullness of God, [Col.2:9-10](#). Jesus came to provide the means of our salvation. He fully satisfied the righteous demands of God. He lived a holy, sinless life and set the example for us. Jesus is the One that all need to see. He is the Light of the world that dispels the darkness of sin.

I pray that you have been enlightened about who Jesus really is. He is our Savior and Lord, but He is much more than that. We could never discover all He is, but we do know enough to receive His glorious salvation. Do you know this Man or have you just heard about Him? Why not come?