

## THE BOOK OF COLOSSIANS

### COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. The book of Colossians directs our attention to Christ emphasizing the prominence of Jesus in our lives. (Col. 1.18)
2. Who is Jesus and what does He mean to your life? (Matt. 16.11-16). Jesus is to be the most important person in your life.

#### I. THE PORTRAIT OF JESUS

- A. **COLOSSIANS 1.15:** *“He is the image of the invisible God”*
- B. “Image” (eikon): Icon. A form of something that represents something else, a representation.
- C. If you want to know the character of God, study the life of Jesus. (John 1.18; 14.6; Heb. 1.3)

#### II. THE POWER OF JESUS

- A. **COLOSSIANS 1.16,17:** *“And He is before all things”*
  1. He existed before anything was created.
  2. He is the reason for their existence. (John 1.1-3; 3.18)
- B. **COLOSSIANS 1.17:** *“And in Him all things consist.”*
  1. “Consist” literally, to stand together.
  2. Jesus keeps everything in the universe working together. He maintains all nature. (Heb. 1.3; Gen. 8.22; Matt. 5.45)

#### III. THE POSITION OF JESUS

- A. **COLOSSIANS 1.18:** *“And He is the head of the body, the church.”* A position of authority. (cf. Eph. 1.20-23)
- B. The body refers to the anatomy of a physical body with different parts. (1 Cor. 12.14-17)
- C. In this body, Jesus is the head, the control center who directs the actions of the body. (Col. 1.18)

#### II. THE PREEMINENCE OF JESUS

- A. **COLOSSIANS 1.18:** *“who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead”* (with v. 15,16)
  1. Not firstborn chronologically. (Matt. 13.55; Luke 2.7)
  2. Firstborn: the one who is elevated. (Rom. 8.29; Heb. 1.6)
- B. Jesus is elevated above all of creation. (Col. 1.15,18)

**CONCLUSION:** Is Jesus the most important person in your life?

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*“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”*  
-Mark 16.15

**April 24, 2022**

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#### MEETING TIMES:

**SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM**  
**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM**  
**SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM**  
**WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM**

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#### IS SILENCE PERMISSIVE OR PROHIBITIVE?

“The Bible does not say that we can’t do that. Where in the Bible does it say that we are not allowed to use musical instruments? Where does the Bible forbid having concerts and performances as part of the worship of the church?” Do these arguments sound familiar? It is a prevalent idea that if the Bible does not specifically condemn it, then it authorizes it. Paul wrote that the Bible is useful for *“casting down arguments”* (2 Cor. 10.4,5). So let’s go the Bible and try to understand if silence is permissive or prohibitive?

For the sake of space, let’s look at one passage. In the Old Testament, there was only one group of people who could serve as priests. The priesthood belonged exclusively to those who were born of the tribe of Levi. There were those who wanted to make Jesus a priest according to the Old Law. The Hebrew writer responded by writing this: *“For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.”* (Heb. 7.14). The Law of Moses said nothing about Judah being allowed to serve as priests. Therefore Jesus could not serve as a priest according to Moses, because the law did not authorize it. The silence of the law concerning those from other tribes serving as priests was not permissive but prohibitive. CLP

## WHY WE BELIEVE THE BIBLE

### 1 THESSALONIANS 2.12

#### INTRODUCTION:

1. Some reject it, dismiss it, or rewrite it. Do you believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God?
2. God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit were all involved in writing and delivering the Bible to man. (John 16.13-15; 14.24)
3. The Thessalonians accepted the teachings of the apostles as the very word of God. (1 Thess. 2.13; cf. Luke 8.21; 11.28)
4. Why do we believe in the Bible?

#### I. PERFECTION

- A. **ROMANS 12.2:** *“...that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*
1. We are to change from being like the world. (v. 2).
  2. How does this change take place? *“by the renewing of your mind.”* (v. 2; cf. Matt. 23.27)
  3. “Prove” is to put to the test. When we put the word of God to work in our lives, we prove it to be perfect.
- B. In what way is the word of God perfect?
1. “Perfect” (telios): Literally, complete.
  2. The Bible does not contain everything that there is to know. (John 20.30; 21.25)
  3. The Bible is complete in that it contains everything we need to be saved. (Ps. 19.7)
  4. The Bible has everything we need to know to live a life that is pleasing to God. (2 Pet. 1.3; 2 Tim. 3.17)

#### II. PURPOSE

- A. **ISAIAH 55.11:** *“But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”*
1. **ISAIAH 55.6,7:** Through the word of God, mercy and pardon are offered to the lost.
  2. **ISAIAH 55.8,9:** Though man’s ways are thoughts are unreliable, God is true to his word. (cf. Ps. 50.21)
  3. **ISAIAH 55.10,11:** We can rely on the promise of forgiveness.
- B. The Bible accomplishes exactly what God purposed.
1. Consider the change in Paul. (Acts 9.21,26; Gal. 1.23)
  2. Paul is not an anomaly but represents what the word of God can do for anyone. (1 Tim. 1.16; 2 Pet. 2.18,19)

**CONCLUSION:** The Bible can change your life if you allow it to be your guide in life.

## PEACE AMONG GOD’S FAMILY

Christians are blessed with peace. We have an inner peace knowing that we are right with God (Phil. 4.6,7). We have a peace with others who might be very different from us because we share a fellowship in Christ (Eph. 2.15). All of this is enjoyed because we have peace with God through faith (Rom. 5.1)

Peace within the church is not always easy to maintain. The Lord’s church is comprised of individuals who come from different backgrounds and have different character building experiences which shape their philosophies and outlooks on life. As a consequence, brethren tend to group with others who share their interests and viewpoints. Unfortunately, brethren also tend to argue and be confrontational with those who do not share the same interests and viewpoints.

This was the exact circumstance we find in the Lord’s church which met at Ephesus. It was a church that was comprised mostly of believing Gentiles who were struggling to get along with the believing Jews. Throughout the book of Ephesians reference is constantly made the idea of being one body (Eph. 1.10; 2.18). In chapter four Paul provides the formula for unity and peace within the church as brethren are encouraged to endeavor “to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4.3).

The unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace is kept when we have the proper attitude. In Ephesians 4.1,2 we read words like “lowliness,” and “gentleness,” and “longsuffering.” Brethren are never going to be unified when they are wise in their own opinions (Rom. 12.16). Being confrontational and harsh rather than approaching a brother or sister with whom we disagree with gentleness will never promote unity and peace. It all begins with attitude.

The unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace is kept when we have the proper doctrine. In Ephesians 4.4-6, we read about there being only one way to believe. There is not a variety of different faiths, but one faith. There is not a variety of different ways and reasons to baptize, but one baptism. There is not a wide range of churches, but one body. We do not achieve peace when we are tolerant of different doctrine, but when we all believe the truth.

Peace is something that we ought to cherish. But peace cannot be pursued at any price. Sacrificing truth so that we can be at peace with one another is a sacrifice too costly to make. CLP