

Study #3
Do You Really Know?
Colossians 1:15-29



IS JESUS ENOUGH

Theme: Depending upon the sufficiency of Jesus provides the drive for advancing the gospel.

I. Do you REALLY know who Jesus is?

Read: vss. 15-20

Notice:

- A. Image of the invisible God (vs. 15)
- B. Firstborn over all creation (vs. 15)
- C. Creator of all things (vs. 16)
- D. Before all things (vs. 17)
- E. Holds all things together (vs. 17)
- F. Head of the church (vs. 18)
- G. Beginning of the Resurrection (vs. 18)
- H. Supreme one... (vs. 18)
- I. ..In whom all the fullness dwells (vs.19)

WOW!

Clarification for A and B (C through I are self explanatory):

Image = Greek *eikon* (ikon):

"essentially and absolutely the perfect expression and representation of...God the Father"

"Christ is the visible representation and manifestation of God to created beings" (Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words: MacDonald Publishing Co.)

Firstborn = Greek *prototokos*

Prototokos can mean either first in a series or first in

preeminence (the context always determines the meaning).

In this case, the meaning is clear: Jesus is the Preeminent One. This can be seen from everything surrounding the word *prototokos*. He is the exact manifestation of God. He is the Creator. He is eternal. In him all things consist. In him all the fullness dwells.

This meaning also occurs in Psalm 89:27 with reference to King David:

*I will also appoint him my firstborn,
the most exalted of the kings of the earth.*

In this passage, the word firstborn in Hebrew is *bekor*. When the Hebrew Old Testament was translated into Greek (The Septuagint: translated before the New Testament was written) the obvious choice of Greek words for *bekor* was *prototokos*. Since both the Hebrew *bekor* and the Greek *prototokos* can possess both meanings (first in series or first in preeminence) they are a natural translation match. It's obvious that David was never the first king in a series of kings. Instead, just as the Psalm declares, he was *the most exalted of the kings of the earth*. This Hebrew implication is precisely what the Apostle Paul (a Jew among Jews, a Hebrew of Hebrews, cf. Philippians 3:5) poured into the meaning of *prototokos*. Only, in the case of Jesus, it is not merely as the King of the Throne of David, but the Supreme and Preeminent One of Everything.

Question: So, just who is Jesus...REALLY?

Answer: God

Hint: The Almighty! The Maker of Heaven and Earth! The Great I Am! Yahweh! King of Kings! Lord of Lords! Immanuel!

Application: What does this do for you? Do you take this in like just one more piece of information? Or does it stir you?

Facilitator's Note: You may want to linger here for awhile. Praise, thanksgiving, awe, and an overwhelming sense of our Savior's majesty should be our response.

WESTSOUND.ORG

II. Do you REALLY know what Jesus did?

Read: vss. 21-23

Note: Pay attention to the grammar in the first part.

Once you were

and alienated
from God
were enemies
in your minds
because of your evil behavior.

But now he has

reconciled you
by Christ's physical body through death
to present you
holy in his sight,
without blemish
and free from accusation

Once you were alienated.

Once you were enemies.

Alienated from God.

Enemies in our thoughts.

Enemies in our actions.

However, if and when we received Jesus Christ for salvation

We were reconciled.

Reconciled by Christ's actual death.

Reconciled to be presented holy.

Reconciled to be presented without blemish.

Reconciled to be free from accusation.

This is the work of Christ's reconciliation! If you are born again, you can declare, "I was dead in my trespasses and sin. Now I am alive in Christ."

WESTSOUND.ORG

Application:

1. Take turns coming up with examples of things that were once completely separated, but have been brought completely together.

Example: Koolaid in a packet tastes very sour. Reconcile it with some water and sugar...ahhhh, nectar of kings and queens.

Facilitator's Note: Have a little fun with this. However, save a powerful example that you can use to drive home the point.

2. 2 Corinthians 5:18 and 19: *All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

How do you intend to accomplish this?

- personally
- as a group

III. Do you REALLY know how close Jesus can be?

Read: vss. 24-29

Question: What is the mystery?

Answer: Christ in us

Facilitator's Note: A mystery, in this context, is something that was once not revealed and now has been revealed.

Application:

1. Do you experience the continual presence of the Lord?
2. If not, where do you suppose you can go to get some help?