

Colossians 1:15-19

Jesus True Identity

Introduction:

The apostle Paul gives a logical and Theological refutation of those peddling their false doctrine of the Gnostics which is now in the forefront of his mind. He is very systematic in his approach. He knows by the power of the Holy Spirit exactly where he is going. His aim is to point out the true identity of Jesus humanity and divinity both coexisting at the same time. The two natures of Christ although they coexist they do not in any way mixed or fused together. Jesus is both very God and very Man.

Jesus preexisted before His incarnation. He is as eternal as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. He is the eternal beginning, uncreated. He who is the living Word was with God the Father in eternity past. John 1:1 chronologically comes before Gen. 1:1. Before creation in eternity past they eternally existed. The triune God is in need of nothing. God alone is Self-Existing, Self Sufficient, the great "I'AM," the Yahweh of the Old Testament.

I. Jesus' Relationship to God

A. The Gnostic heresy is confront head on – 2:9

B. Image of the Invisible God:

1. The word "image" in Greek is "iocr"
2. Jesus is the exact image of God – John 14:9; Heb. 1:3; II Cor. 4:4

C. First Born

1. The meaning is first in rank not birth – Psalm 89:27
2. Jesus is first place – 1:18
3. Only Begotten – monogenes meaning "unique" son, sacrificed – cf. Abraham's unique son Isaac.

D. Jesus' the Creator – v.16; John 1:3; Heb. 1:2; Psalm 19:1-4

E. Jesus Himself is Sustainer of Creation – v. 17

1. Everything holds together – 2:18; Heb. 1:7-8

II. Jesus Relationship to the church v. 18

A. The Only Organic Institution He has promised to bless

1. The powers of hell shall not prevail against it – Mark 10:16; Matt. 26:26
2. Jesus is Head of the church – v.18
3. Without Jesus we can do nothing – John 15:5 (FF. Bruce statement) Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3,5

B. Jesus the True Deity

1. He is fullness in Divinity (pleroma)- 2:10
2. Jesus never gave up any of His eternal attributes when He became man – Phil.2:7
3. The English Puritan John Owen comment on the glorious truth of Christ

