



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Philippians, Colossians, Philemon Sermon Series
Supports Session 7: The Gospel's Power
Sermon Title: The Supremacy of Jesus
Passage: Colossians 1:9-10,15-20

Connection to Colossians 1:9-23

The gospel's power and our freedom from sin are rooted in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. If Jesus is not accorded the glory due His name, His presence in our lives will not empower us to be victorious over sin. The supremacy of Jesus is assailed from many angles today, and the simple assertion of the supremacy of God's only Son is needed to clothe His ministry with power.

Introduction/Opening

There is no limit to the grandeur of the life of Jesus as revealed in Scripture. We see Him healing the sick, raising the dead, and walking on water. We also are told of a day when He will return to claim His people with more fanfare than we can imagine. Sadly, some are tempted to accept a less-than-magnificent Jesus. They acknowledge One who is quotable, but they don't trust Him to be worthy of their total trust. They see a Jesus who teaches great lessons, but they don't think Him worthy of full obedience. He is seen as One who loves all but is not One who offers salvation only to those of believe in Him. Paul reminded the Colossian believers that Jesus is worthy because He is supreme.

Outline

1. The challenge of Colossae continues.
 - a. Paul prayed for the church at Colossae to possess spiritual wisdom and understanding. He prayed they would excel in their grasp of God (Col. 1:9-11)
 - b. Christian growth is not automatic. New automobiles have safety and self-driving features but that does not negate the need for a driver. The church at Colossae could not be put on autopilot and safely navigate the challenges of culture. The work of the apostle was ongoing as was the ministry of the leaders of the church.
 - c. Paul waged a spiritual battle in prayer. Also, Epaphras, a member of the Colossian church, "wrestled" in prayer for them (4:12). We must wake up to the spiritual battle that we are in. We must not be lax in spiritual discipline.
 - d. Paul's message was simple yet powerful. God loves us, Jesus is both God and human at the same time, Jesus died on the cross, the tomb is empty due to the resurrection of Jesus. Remove one aspect of the truth, and the power of the gospel is neutralized.

- e. Culture demands open-mindedness. Some question the claim that the only way to the Father is through faith in the Son. By adapting our faith to the demands of culture, we lose the authority of the gospel.
 - f. We must respond with a simple presentation of the majesty of the gospel.
2. The magnificence of Jesus
- a. Scripture is emphatic that God is Creator of the heavens and earth. In Genesis we find God created the heavens and earth, and in the closing chapters of Revelation we find God will create a “new” heaven and earth. Also, Jesus is revealed as present with God at creation (John 1:1-4).
 - b. Paul reminded the church at Colossae that Jesus is creator of all things, natural and spiritual (1:16), essential to life, and “by Him all things hold together” (1:17).
 - c. The Letter to the Colossians emphasizes the supremacy of Jesus as He has first place in everything (1:18) and that God was pleased to have His fullness dwell in Him (1:19). Jesus is also the “head” of the church and the firstborn from the dead as He has first place in everything (1:18).
 - d. Jesus taught His disciples that God the Father was intimately involved with His creation. He said that an insignificant sparrow would not fall from the sky without His “consent” and that the number of hairs on our heads are numbered and known by Him (Matt. 10:29-31).
 - e. Scripture clearly asserts that God is essential to continued life in our universe.
 - f. Jesus is presented not in a minimal way but in a magnificent way.
3. The believer’s embrace of the supremacy of Jesus
- a. Paul wrote to Colossae to correct the heresy that was plaguing the church (2:4).
 - b. The objective was to encourage the heart of the believer. The aim is for the heart of the believer to be transformed.
 - c. Paul struggled for the hearts of the believers at Colossae (2:1). The church began with an acceptance of the gospel but had been taught about another Jesus. Paul sought the return of the Jesus of “his gospel” (2 Tim. 2:8) to the hearts of the believers at Colossae.
 - d. Be assured, Jesus is the only way of salvation, and He is the ever-present Creator-Shepherd caring for us. Jesus promised that believers would have living waters flowing from within them as they believed and walked in the power of the Holy Spirit (John 7:38). Surely, such a winsome testimony flowing from the heart of every believer would be an adequate witness to the ends of the earth. We seek not to be defiant debaters of religious truth but transformed believers at peace in our world with precious truth to share with others.

Conclusion

A familiar gospel song has the lyrics “His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me.” May that thought permeate our lives. May we be aware of the magnificence of our Savior and His ever-watchful eye over us. How would living with that kind of regular awareness change how we viewed our days and our encounters with others?

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