

Sermon Series: Sermons on Calvinism

Sermon Text: Colossians 1:13-23 Christian World and Life View

Because Christ has universal dominion, we yield Him universal obedience.

1) Christ created all things, giving them definition and purpose (1:15-16).

- a) “all things”—refers to all that is not God, material and immaterial
- b) “in Him”—definition
- c) “through Him”—agency
- d) “for Him”—purpose
- e) **Application:**
 - i) We truly know anything only as we know it in its relation to Christ.
 - ii) We obediently use anything only as we use it for the glory of Christ.

2) Christ sustains all things, giving them stability and coherence (1:17).

- a) “in Him all things hold together”
 - i) Stability
 - ii) Coherence
- b) **Application:**
 - i) Christ is transcendently immanent to the world and to your life.
 - (1) Not deism (transcendence without immanence)
 - (2) Not pantheism (immanence without transcendence)
 - ii) You can enjoy confident peace, thanking Christ Jesus in all things.

3) Christ reconciles all things, restoring them to God (1:19-23).

- a) “the fulness of God” (v. 19)—The Trinity’s love for creation embodied in Christ Jesus
- b) “to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven” (v. 20a)
 - i) not universal salvation (cf. 2:15 “He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.”)
 - ii) universal pacification—the whole creation under fallen man is a battlefield of man’s rebellion against God; the violence of man’s rebellion is reflected in the abuse and conflict of the created order; only in Christ, the new humanity, is creation pacified under God’s righteous rule
- c) “making peace by the blood of His cross” (v. 20b)—Christ’s sacrificial death is the means of restoring humanity and all things under God’s righteous rule
- d) “you . . . He has now reconciled” (vv. 21, 22)—the transformation has already begun with “you,” the church
- e) **Application:**
 - i) Continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel (v. 23).
 - ii) Minister the gospel wherever you are.
 - iii) Christianity is a public faith.