

The Preeminence

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I. Thoughts from sermons past

A. *The Glory of the Story of the Successful Savior*

Mat 1:21 ...he shall save his people from their sins.

B. *One Having Authority*

Mat 21:23 ...By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?

C. *It's All About Jesus*

1. With the Father—It's all about Jesus

Mat 17:8 And when they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no man, save Jesus only.

2. With the Bible—It's all about Jesus

Joh 5:39 Search the scriptures...they are they which testify of me.

3. With New Testament preachers—It's all about Jesus

Joh 3:30 He must increase, but I *must* decrease.

4. In salvation—It's all about Jesus

a. Jesus shall save His people

Mat 1:21 ...call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

b. If you talk about salvation on the cross—It's all about Jesus

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling...

c. If you talk about saved in born again—It's all about Jesus

Joh 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

d. If you talk about resurrection—It's all about Jesus

1Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall...shout...and the dead in Christ shall rise...

5. In worship—(Not just a Sunday service, but a way of life)—It's all about Jesus

Col 1:18 ...that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

D. Preach Christ and Watch the Wonder

1. Real preaching is all about Jesus

1Co 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

2. Real hearing is a miracle of God

Joh 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word.

3. Believing is a miracle of God

Eph 1:19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

Eph 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead...

4. Receiving is a miracle of God

a. The natural mind will not and cannot receive and/or know the things of God

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

b. God reveals the knowledge of His salvation to His children by His Spirit

1Co 2:12 Now we have received...the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

II. Five sentences in Colossians Chapter 1

A. 1st sentence Col 1:3-8: We give thanks...declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

Col 1:3 *(Paul says:)* We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

(Paul says: Let me tell you when did we give thanks) **praying always for you,**

Col 1:4 *Since (Paul says: Let me tell you what we are thankful for)* **we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus, and of the love which ye have to all the saints,**

Col 1:5 *For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, (Paul says: Let me tell you how you came to have these things)* **whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;**

Col 1:6 Which is come unto you, as *it is in all the world*; (*Paul says: Let me tell you what this gospel does*) and bringeth forth fruit, as *it doth also in you*, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:

Col 1:7 (*Paul says: Let me remind you how you came to know these things*) As ye also learned of Epaphras our dear fellowservant, who is for you a faithful minister of Christ;

Col 1:8 (*Paul says: Let me tell you how we came to know about you*) Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.

B. 2nd sentence Col 1:9-17: For this cause we also...by him all things consist.

Col 1:9 (*Paul says: Beyond that prayer, I have an additional prayer*) For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire (*Paul says: Let me tell you the new thing we are praying*) that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Col 1:10 (*Paul says: Let me tell you why you need knowledge of His will*) That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, (*Paul says: Let me tell you what a worthy and pleasing walk includes*) being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

Col 1:11 (*Paul says: Let me tell you what being fruitful and increased knowledge brings*) Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, (*Paul says: Let me tell you what being strengthened will result in*) unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

Col 1:12 (*Paul says: Let me tell you yet other things I am thankful for*) Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Col 1:14 (*Paul says: Let me tell you what you have in that Son of God*) In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even the forgiveness of sins*:

Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Col 1:16 (*Paul says: Let me tell you what I mean by the firstborn of every creature*) For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, (*Paul says: Let me tell you what is included in all things created*) whether *they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers*: (*Paul says: Let me repeat that all things are all things and tell you why he created*) all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 (*Paul says: Let me tell you how far back this Son of God goes*) And he is before all things, (*Paul says: Let me tell you how all His creation keeps going*) and by him all things consist.

C. 3rd sentence: Jesus is the head—Jesus is the first—Jesus is the preeminence

Col 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

D. 4th sentence: God is reconciled to His children through Jesus

Col 1:19 *(Paul says: The Father gave Jesus all authority)* **For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;**

Col 1:20 *(Paul says: The Father made peace with us through Jesus)* **And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, (Paul says: The Father reconciled all Jesus died for) by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.**

2Co 5:18 ...God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

2Co 5:19 ...and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

2Co 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

E. 5th sentence: You can be reconciled to God in your mind

Col 1:21 *(Paul says: Now I am switching from God's point of view to yours)* **And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, (Paul says: When you know what God knows, you can feel to be reconciled by this same act of Jesus) yet now hath he reconciled**

Col 1:22 **In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouvable in his sight:**

Col 1:23 *(Paul says: As long as you keep believing in the gospel of the grace of Christ, you can feel peace)* **If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;**

Col 1:24 *(Paul says: I count it joyful to suffer now for preaching Christ)* **Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, (Paul says: I feel to be running behind. I still have room for more suffering for Christ's church) and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:**

Col 1:25 *(Paul says: God gave me this cause)* **Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, (Paul says: God gave me the revelation of the mystery of His word) to fulfil the word of God;**

Col 1:26 **Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:**

Col 1:27 **To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; (Paul says: Here is a summation statement of the revealed mystery.) which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:**

Col 1:28 *(Paul says: I preach nothing but Jesus Christ)* **Whom we preach, (Paul says: There is an expected response from those who learn of grace.) warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; (Paul says: Let the Christ that is in you lead you to be perfect in that Christ.) that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:**

Col 1:29 *(Paul says: I labor for the cause)* **Whereunto I also labour, (Paul says: My labor is due to the Christ that is in me) striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.**

1Co 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which *was bestowed* upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Php 2:13 ...it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.