

“The Head Of The Body”
Colossians 1:18-20

Introduction:

1. Let's Turn Back In Our Bibles This Morning:
 - To Colossians 1:
 - Where - After Beginning His Letter With A Prayer:
 - Paul Continues His Letter:
 - With A Poem!
 - A “Poem Of Praise” To The One:
 - Through Whom Every True Christian:
 - Receives Their Redemption & Forgiveness Of Sins!
 - As We Saw Back In 1:17!
2. That Person, Of Course:
 - Is None Other Than:
 - Jesus Christ - Who Is The “Dear Son” Of:
 - Our Heavenly Father! (1:13)
 - And So - From 1:15-20 - We Find What Seems To Be A Hymn Of Praise - In Which Paul “Re-Introduces” The Colossian Christians To Their Lord!
 - Perhaps - Like The Laodicean Church:
 - In The Book Of Revelation:
 - They Too Had Left Their First Love!
 - Perhaps They Too Had Left The Lord Standing Outside The Door Of Their Church, Knocking!
 - Well - Paul Took This Opportunity:
 - To Write One Of The Most Beautiful & Meaningful:
 - Descriptions Of Jesus - In Two Stanzas:
 - With A Brief Interlude In Between!
3. Let's Look At Those Verses Once Again!
 - Stanza One Begins In:
 - 1:15-16 - “Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: / For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him!”
 - The Interlude Summarizes The First Stanza & Introduces The Second, From:
 - 1:17-18a - “And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. / And he is the head of the body, the church!”
 - The Second Stanza Can Be Found In:
 - 1:18b-20 - “Who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. / For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; / And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven!”
4. Last Sunday - We Looked At:
 - The First Stanza:
 - And How Jesus Is To Be Exalted In Our Hearts & Lives:
 - Because He Is Both The Creator:
 - And The Controller Of All Things!
 - This Morning - Let's Look More Closely At:
 - The Second Stanza - Which Continues To “Re-Introduce” The Lord:
 - As The “Captain” Of Our Salvation!
 - Because - As We Just Read In:
 - 1:18 - “And He Is The Head Of The Body, The Church!”
5. That's Right!
 - The Creator & Controller:
 - Of The Whole Universe:
 - Has A Special Relationship:
 - With His People!
 - With His Church!
 - Which Includes Every Christian, Including Me & Including You!

- And So - To Begin This Morning:
- I Want You To Think About:

1. **God's Special Description Of Jesus:**

- As - "The Head Of The Body!" (1:18a)
 - In The New Testament, This Is A Pretty Common Description:
 - Of The Relationship Between:
 - Jesus And His People - The Church!
 - We Are The Body Of Christ:
 - And He Is Our Head!
 - And There Is So Much We Can Learn:
 - From This Inspired Illustration!
 - Jesus Is Our Head Because:
- He Is The One Who Generates Us!
 - He Gives Us Life! And Without Him - There Would Be No Church!
 - **IE:** Just Like What Would Happen If Your Head Was To Be Separated From Your Body! Your Body Would Cease To Live!
 - In Ephesians 5:23 - We Are Reminded That:
 - "Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body!"
 - Without Christ:
 - There Would Be No Church!
 - He Is The Head!
 - But - Also - As Our Head:
 - He Is The One Who Governs Us!
 - That Is - He Alone Is The:
 - Supreme Master Of His Body!
 - What He Thinks & What He Says:
 - Goes!
 - **IE:** Our Bodies Perform Many Actions! Most Are "Voluntary" Actions - Like Walking & Running & Talking, But Some Actions Are "Involuntary" - Like The Breathing Of Your Lungs & The Beating Of Your Heart! But The Governing Agent Of All These Actions Is The Brain In Your Head! It Is The "Nerve Center" Of Your Entire Life!
 - And So It Is For The Church!
 - The "Dear Son" Of God The Father:
 - Is Our Leader & Our Master:
 - And We Are To Obey His Every Command!
 - Because:
 - He Is [Also] The One Who Guides Us!
 - Not Only Does The Lord Control:
 - The New Creation Of His Church:
 - He Cares For Us As Well!
 - In 2:19 - Paul Reminds Us That He Is:
 - "The Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God!"
 - And In Ephesians 5:29 - Paul Also Tells Us That:
 - "No man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: / For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones!"
 - This Is The Special Relationship:
 - That Jesus Has With His Body – The Church!
 - Every Church - Including Ours!
 - He Takes Care Of Us!
 - Even Using The Members Of His Body:
 - To Minister To The Other Members Of His Body!
 - **IE:** Isn't This How We Take Care Of Ourselves? We Use Our Hands To Take Care Of The Needs Of Our Bodies! To Wash Our Face, Brush Our Teeth, Comb Our Hair! But That's Not All! Our Eyes Help Us To See Where To Place Our Hands! Our Nerves & Muscles Help Us To Move Them! And Everything Is Conducted & Directed By The Brains In Our Heads!
 - As You Think About All The Complexities Involved In Just A Simple Task - Don't You

Just Want To Break Out In Praise, As David Did In Psalm 139:14 - "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well!"

- Yet - As Complex & Wonderful As Your Physical Body Is:
 - The Spiritual Body Of Christ Is Even More-So!
 - Because When One Member Of The Church Cares For Another Member:
 - It Is According To The Guidance Of Jesus Christ Himself - The Head Of The Body!
- So - Remember This Special Description:
 - Of Jesus!
 - "He Is The Head Of The Body, The Church!"
 - And As His Body, We Are To Obey & Follow His Every Direction!
 - But - As You Grow More & More In His Grace:
 - As A Christian:
 - This Should & Will Become More & More Natural!
 - **IE:** Just Like When You Try To Do Something That Your Body Is Not Accustomed To Doing! Try Writing With Your Opposite Hand! Feels So Unnatural! But, The More You Do It, The More Natural It Will Become!
- The More You Follow The Direction:
 - Of Jesus In Your Life:
 - The More "Natural" It Will Become As Well!
 - How Will You Respond This Morning - To Jesus As Your Head?

* But - Paul Also Wants Us To Think Even "**More** About Jesus" - And Esp:

2. **God's Special Design For Jesus!**

- Which We Find At The Beginning Of The Second Stanza:
 - In This Poem Of Praise!
 - The Rest Of 1:18 - Tells Us This About Jesus:
 - "Who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence!"
 - This Is The Connection:
 - That Jesus Has:
 - With Us - His New Creation:
 - The Church!
 - Just As He Is:
 - The Creator & Controller:
 - Of This World!
 - He Is Also:
 - The Creator & Captain:
 - Of Our Salvation!
 - And So - God's Special Design For Jesus:
 - Is To Save Us:
- In His Own Person!
 - In 1:18 - Jesus - God's Own "Dear Son" - Is Called:
 - "The Beginning!"
 - It Does Not Say Here That Jesus:
 - Was **From** The Beginning - Though He Is That Too - As Other Verses Testify!
 - But Here - He Is Simply Called:
 - "**The** Beginning!"
 - **Jesus Is "Beginning" Itself - But Without "A Beginning" Himself!**
 - This Means That He Is The "Beginner" Of All Things!
 - Not Just All Things:
 - In The Old Creation:
 - Which Is What The First Stanza Of This Poem Describes!
 - But - He Is The "Beginning" & "Beginner" Of:
 - All Things In His New Creation:
 - The Church!
 - This Reminds Us Of Another Common Description:

- Used By Jesus In The Book Of Revelation As Well!
 - Where Jesus Said - Revelation 1:8 - "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty!"
- The Person Of Jesus:
 - Is The Very Beginning:
 - Of Every Aspect Of Your Life!
 - You Owe Your **Physical** Life To Him - And - You Owe Your **Spiritual** Life To Him As Well!
 - This Is All Part Of God's Design!
 - But Our Salvation Is Also:
- Through His Own Power!
 - In 1:18 - We Find Another Description Of Jesus!
 - He Is Not Only The Beginning:
 - He Is Also: "The First-Born From The Dead!"
 - So - In Both Stanzas Of This Poem:
 - We Find The Word "First-Born!"
 - Back In 1:15 - Jesus Is Called:
 - The "First-Born Of All Creation!"
 - And Here - In 1:18 - Jesus Is Called:
 - The "First-Born From The Dead!"
 - Once Again - There's More To This Word:
 - Than Meets The Eye!
 - Remember - It Doesn't Always Mean Someone Who Is "**First To Be Born**" In A Family!
 - It Can Also Describe A Special Relationship & Rank Between People!
 - And - Once Again - This Is How The Word Is Used Here!
 - Here - In 1:18 - "First-Born" Describes:
 - His Relationship:
 - To His New Creation, The Church!
 - And - How Was He Able To Save Us & To Make Us Into This New Creation?
 - Through The Power Of His Own Resurrection From The Dead!
 - In One Short Week - We Will Be Celebrating:
 - In A Special Way - The Resurrection Of Jesus Christ - On Easter!
 - Why? Because Of The Great Importance Of His Resurrection To Our Faith!
 - 1 Corinthians 15:17 - "If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins!"
 - And So - It Is **His** Life:
 - That **Brings** Life:
 - To Every Creature & To Every Christian!
 - Now - It Is True:
 - That Other's Have Been Raised From The Dead!
 - **By** Jesus & Even **Before** Jesus! But In Every Case, They Would Eventually Die Again!
 - But Jesus Is The Only One:
 - Who Rose From The Dead:
 - Never To Die Again!
 - "Because It Is Not Possible That He Should Be Holden Of It!" (Acts 2:24)
 - He Is The "First-Born From The Dead!"
 - And Gives Us Great Hope - That:
 - Because He Lives, We Shall Live Also! (John 14:19)
 - This Too Is All Part Of God's Design!
 - But Our Salvation Is Also:
- For His Own Preeminence!
 - At The End Of 1:18 - Paul Tells The Reason:
 - Why Jesus Is **All** Of The Things He Describes!
 - Not Just In This Verse:
 - But Throughout The Poem!
 - "That In All Things He Might Have The Preeminence!"

- Or - That He Might:
 - Hold The First Place:
 - And Be First:
 - In Everything & To Every One!
- This Is The Great Aim & The Great End:
 - For *All* Of Christ's Work!
 - For His Old Creation!
 - For His New Creation!
 - And For You!
 - Is This True For You Today?
 - Is He The "Preeminent" One In Your Life?
 - Does He Hold "First Place!"
 - As Howard Grose Once Wrote:
 - "Give of your best to the Master; Give Him first place in your heart; Give Him first place in your service; Consecrate every part!"
 - So - Remember This Special Design:
 - For Jesus!
 - As The Beginning & As The Firstborn From The Dead:
 - He Is To Be *First* In Your Life!

* But - I Also Wants You To Think About What We Find In 1:19-20 - And That Is:

3. God's Special Delight In Jesus!

- 1:19-20 - "For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; / And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven!"
 - The Special Relationship That Jesus Has:
 - With His Father - As His "Dear Son" - Is Something That:
 - God Wanted To Share With Us!
 - And So - 1:19 - The Best & Most Pleasing Thing To God Was To:
 - Bring Full Revelation Through Christ!
 - Because - 1:19 - "It Pleased The Father That In Him Should All Fulness Dwell!"
 - This Means That:
 - All That God Is - Jesus Is!
 - All That God Has - Jesus Has!
 - All That God Does - Jesus Does!
 - And So - In Jesus Alone:
 - You Will Find The:
 - Fulness Of God's Glory!
 - 2:9 - "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily!"
 - But You Will Also Find:
 - The Fulness Of God's Grace!
 - Jesus Christ Is The "All-Sufficient" Treasure:
 - That You Need!
 - **IE:** Michigan - Saw A Man With A Metal Detector On The Beach - Wondered Out Loud - "I Wonder If He Ever Finds Anything!" Speaking From My Own Experience! Never Did! But Once!
 - If You Remember This Truth:
 - About Your Savior:
 - He *Will* Be First In Your Life!
 - He *Will* Be Preeminent!
 - But - In 1:20 - It Was Also Pleasing To God To:
 - Bring Full Reconciliation Through Christ!
 - In The Greek Texts - The Main Part Of 1:20 Is What We Find In The Middle Of The King James - "And By Him To Reconcile All Things Unto Himself!"
 - To "Reconcile" Means To Bring Things Back Into Harmony:
 - That Were Once At Odds!
 - And This Is Certainly What Jesus Christ Did For Us - As Christians & As A Church!

- Romans 5:20 Tells Us - "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life!"
 - But Is This All That Jesus Reconciled?
 - Not According To This Poem Of Praise In Colossians!
- No - According To 1:20 - "All Things" Are To Be:
 - Reconciled To God!
 - And To Further Define "All Things" - He Adds At The End Of The Verse, Which Is Also At The End Of The Greek Texts:
 - "By Him, I Say, Whether They Be Things In Earth, Or Things In Heaven!"
- This Reconciliation Is:
 - A Complete & Comprehensive:
 - Reconciliation!
 - With *Everything* Jesus Has Made!
 - Now - This Does Not Mean That:
 - Every Person Will Be "Reconciled" With God In A Saving Way!
 - Because - All Throughout Scripture - It Is Clear That They Won't!
- But The "Reconciliation" Meant Here:
 - Is A Complete & Comprehensive:
 - Surrender & Submission To The Will Of God!
 - For Some, It Will Be Welcomed! But For Others, It Will Be Imposed!
 - But For All - Philippians 2:10-11:
 - "At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; / And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father!"
- And So - The Cosmic War Against God:
 - In The Heavens & On Earth - Will, One Day, Come To An End!
 - And All Things Will Be Subdued By God's Own Power & Will!
- And - If You Remember This Truth:
 - About Your Savior:
 - You Will Surrender Your Life To Him Today & Every Day!
 - So That He *Will* Be Preeminent!
 - But - Paul Goes Even Further In 1:20:
 - And Shares With Us How God Was Able To:
- Bring Full Redemption Through Christ!
 - 1:20 - "Having Made Peace Through The Blood Of His Cross!"
 - There Was A Price To Be Paid:
 - For Our Peace & Reconciliation:
 - With God!
 - And It Was The Price:
 - Of Christ's Own Death On The Cross!
 - His Death Was:
 - A Violent Death!
 - Read About It This Week! Good Friday!
 - But - His Death Was Also:
 - A Vicarious Death!
 - He Died - Not For Himself, But For You!
 - "It Was For Me He Cried, For Me He Died, For Me He Shed His Blood Upon A Tree! It Was For Me He Came, For Me His Shame, For Me, O Praise His Name, It Was For Me!"
 - And We Must Never Forget This!
- And So - That Old Rugged Cross:
 - Though - Designed To Bring Shame To Its Victims:
 - Became The Glory Of Christ's Ministry Of Reconciliation!
 - What They Used To Render Punishment:
 - Jesus Used To Make Peace!
 - What They Thought Was Their Instrument Of Death:
 - Jesus Claimed As His Own, To Be The Instrument For Life!
 - What They Thought Would Be His End:
 - Jesus Used To Mark The Beginning Of His New Creation!

- And So - It Is True:
 - His Pain:
 - Was Our Gain!
 - And Brought Reconciliation With Him, Our Great & Glorious Redeemer!
- Revelation, Reconciliation, Redemption!
 - It Was God's Own Delight:
 - For Jesus To Bring All These Things To You!
 - So That You Might Delight Yourself:
 - In Him!

Conclusion:

1. Today Is What Is Traditionally Known As "Palm Sunday!"
 - And As You Read About The Account:
 - Of Jesus' Triumphal Entry:
 - Into Jerusalem - On That Day:
 - You Soon Realize That:
 - The People Who Shouted "Hosanna" Did Not Fully Recognize The *Means* Of Christ's Preeminence!
2. Do Not Make The Same Mistake!
 - Remember That:
 - The One Who Created All Things:
 - Including You! And:
 - The One Who Is In Control Of Every Thing:
 - Including Your Life!
 - He Is The Captain Of Your Salvation:
 - As Well!
 - He Is "The Head Of The Body!"
 - The Head Of Every True Christian:
 - And Of Every True Church!
 - 3. So - How Will You Respond?
 - How Will You Respond To Jesus?
 - Won't You - "Give Him First Place In Your Heart?"
 - What Is It That:
 - You need To Surrender To The Lord Today?
 - A Sin? Your Future? Your Own Soul?
 - Submit Yourself To Him!
 - Surrender All To Him!
 - So That - "In All Things He Might Have The Preeminence!" (1:18)

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