

## My All In All Colossians 1:15-23

**Objective:** Provide each with reasons to live faithfully in Christ.

**Reading:** Colossians 1:15-23.

**Memory:** Colossians 1:23, "... i\_y\_c\_i\_y\_f, e\_a\_f, n\_m\_f\_t\_h\_h\_o\_i\_t\_g..."

### **Introduction:**

1. Everyone appreciates a faithful dog; It means you are important to him. Everyone respects a faithful soldier who holds to his post; country and your safety is more important to him than his own comfort, safety. I change oil in my car more faithfully than in my lawnmower; which is more important to me? I try to be extremely faithful to wife; she is important.
2. Does your faithfulness demonstrate that Christ is the single most important thing in your life?
3. There are many pressures, philosophies to lead us astray. Are you wavering in the way you live and act, at times doing what is right, noble, true, and at other times living other ways?

### **We need to stay faithful to Christ.** (all times, all ways) (WHY?)

In Colossians 1:15-23, speaking by the power and authority of God, the Apostle Paul writes to encourage Christians to resist all kinds of temptations, to resist all kinds of human philosophies which might lure them astray from complete devotion of their lives and activities to God in Christ. His primary thought is to help them in understanding who Christ is, as the prime motivation to faithful living. If we can really understand the significance of Jesus, who He is and what we have in Him, we, too, should be motivated to continual faithful living.

*We will be prompted to greater faithful living as we understand;*

### **I. Who Christ is in regard to Creation.**

#### A. The very creator of all things!

1. Colossians 1:16, "**For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.**"
2. Visible; what are talking about? Sun, moon, stars, children, TV, car, popcorn, friends ...
3. Invisible; love, honor, integrity, spiritual things, hope, radio waves, electricity, cyberspace...
4. Powers and authorities. Rulers, kings, presidents, dictators, principles. Governments.
5. Does it seem messed up to you? He controls all of it; that may provide a new way of looking at it. You know He is in charge and has a plan and is working through it.
6. You; He is also the one who made you! What response does this imply?
  - a. What devotion and faithfulness do you owe your Creator?
  - b. Isaiah 29:15-16, "**Woe to those who go to great depths to hide their plans from the LORD, who do their work in darkness and think, "Who sees us? Who will know?"**  
<sup>16</sup>**You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, "He did not make me"? Can the pot say of the potter, "He knows nothing"?"**

#### B. He holds everything together.

1. Colossians 1:16, "**...all things were created by him and for him.**"
  - a. Everything is for Him; the goal / purpose. Are you fitting in to that goal or fighting it?
  - b. Essence of all things; even the physical. Even the spiritual. Present and eternal.
2. Colossians 1:17, "**He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.**"
3. Keep planets, stars in place, desk from evaporating, seasons ...
  - a. Ice floats to insulate and keep fish alive. Life depends on tides. Seeds need to be frozen to germinate. Who understands all these things, ordains all these things, oversees them?
4. Does your life honor Him as that essential? Like astronaut; take care of lifeline!

*We need to be faithful to Creator. Also realize*

### **II. Who Christ is in relation to God, the Father.**

#### A. How does one see and comprehend invisible things?

1. How do you relate to what you cannot physically see?

2. You know who I am by appearance but do you know me? Who am I really? That part is invisible to the physical eye and must be seen in other ways!
  3. Colossians 1:15, **"He is the image of the invisible God, "**
  4. John 14:9, **"Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"**
  5. Sometimes we are very near sighted. Can't see eternal, spirit things. John 1:18, **"No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known."**
  6. Christ is how God is revealed to Creation. To know God the Father, look to Christ. He tells, instructs us about God. To see the Spirit, ask WWJD.
  7. OT is also a record of Who God is, but what is in OT concealed is in NT revealed In Christ.
- B. Christ is the very fullness of God!
1. Colossians 1:19, **"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,"**
  2. Not a part or portion, but the whole. (Some "cults" fail to recognize this truth.) There is nothing lacking. Christ is NOT just an angel or prophet. Not a "little" god. Not just a good man. Colossians 2:9, **"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form,"**
  3. Relating to Christ is relating to God! John 1:14, **"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."**

We should be moved toward greater faithful living in Christ Jesus as we understand;

### III. Who Christ is in relationship to our salvation.

- A. To understand, we must first each recognize that we were lost.
1. Ephesians 2:1-5, **"As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved."**
  2. Maybe you are still lost? Are you still hostile and alienated?
  3. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, **"Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."**
    - a. Have you been "... washed, ...sanctified, ...justified"?
    - b. Here is where baptism fits in; when were you washed? Baptism. 1 Peter 3:21, **" and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,"**
    - c. When were you sanctified? Same point in time; baptism. Acts 22:16, **"And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'** And also ongoing.
    - d. When were you justified? Baptism. Here is where He paid the price for your sins. Here is where you made that appeal! Entered that covenant. When you were clothed with Christ. When you died to self to live for God.
- B. Christ's sacrifice is the only thing that brings reconciliation.
1. Colossians 1:20, **"and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."**
    - a. Here is how God is getting it done. God is reconciling all things to Himself through Christ!
    - b. You with God! A happy family relationship. Through His blood.

2. Romans 3:26 says, “...**he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.**”
  - a. If my 5 year old throws a baseball through the neighbor’s window, he cannot pay for it. I am not “just” if I ignore it. So I, the father, pay for it. That is what God has done in Christ for us.
3. Colossians 1:22, “**But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—**” So there is no room for any complaint’s God finds us Holy” in Christ. Not even Satan, the “Accuser” can make an accusation!

#### C. Head of the church!

1. Colossians 1:18, “... **he is the head of the body, the church** ”.
2. The church is the people who have been “called out”. Reconciled people. Souls saved.
3. Those who worship God with their very lives in spirit and in truth, who wholeheartedly belong to God through Christ. Those who are “saved”.
4. That entity that functions as Jesus functioned when He was here in the flesh. It fills His purpose. Ephesians 1:22-23, may state the thought more clearly. “**And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church,<sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.**”
5. “Church” is a living, breathing, growing, functioning “organism”.
  - a. That “organism” that lives in the same spirit of love and service to the Father.
  - b. Is this YOU??!!! Are you really part of that organism? Do you live like you are?

#### D. He is the “head”.

1. The head is that which gives direction to the whole. The “boss”. That which coordinates and enables the body to function; From where do you receive your marching orders?
2. Look again with me to Colossians 1:21-23, “**Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.<sup>22</sup> But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation-- if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.**” Put an emphasis on the “if”! Do you realize and appreciate what you have in Christ Jesus? If you really do, you will never play around and loose that relationship. It is everything worthwhile. The ultimate in importance. You are reconciled with God only in Christ. Here is your “hope”. Here is the motivation to “**continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast.**”

#### So What?

Jesus Christ is the single most significant thing in your life; in regard to your having a life, living a life and continuing on to eternal life with God. We must continue faithful to Christ in all we think and do!

#### Closing Prayer;

**My All In All**  
**Colossians 1:15-23**

**Reading:** Colossians 1:15-23.

**Memory:** Colossians 1:23

“... i\_ y\_ c\_ i\_ y\_ f\_ , e\_ a\_ f\_ , n\_ m\_ f\_ t\_ h\_ h\_ o\_ i\_ t\_ g\_...”

**We need to stay faithful to Christ.**

Understanding who Christ is, as the prime motivation to faithful living.

**I. Who Christ is in regard to Creation.**

A. The very creator of all things! Colossians 1:16 Isaiah 29:15-16

B. He holds everything together. Colossians 1:16 Colossians 1:17

**II. Who Christ is in relation to God, the Father.**

A. How does one see and comprehend invisible things?

Colossians 1:15 John 14:9 John 1:18

B. Christ is the very fullness of God! Colossians 1:19 Colossians 2:9 John 1:14

**III. Who Christ is in relationship to our salvation.**

A. To understand, we must first each recognize that we were lost.

Ephesians 2:1-5 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 1 Peter 3:21 Acts 22:16

B. Christ's sacrifice is the only thing that brings reconciliation.

Colossians 1:20 Romans 3:26 Colossians 1:22

C. Head of the church! Colossians 1:18 Ephesians 1:22-23

D. He is the “head”. Colossians 1:21-23

**So What?**

We must continue faithful to Christ in all we think and do!