

Growing Up: Supremacy in Christ

Goldstone Church – 24-Jan-16 10:30am

Colossians 1:13-20

Introduction

There is always a danger if we ever add to Jesus. If you try to add to 'perfection', (i) it creates a mess, and (ii) it only dilutes what is already there.

The false teachers in Colossae were trying to *add* something to Jesus.

Similarly, we can be tempted to add to Jesus, e.g. by saying we *have* to go church, *have* to attend a conference, etc. You've *got* to do this, otherwise you're not a real and genuine Christian.

This is a big mistake. By doing any of this, we dilute the perfect.

In this passage we're going to see that Jesus is wonderfully perfect.

The focus for this *extraordinary* passage is: **You Can't Add to Jesus**

1. JESUS IS OUR CREATOR (COLOSSIANS 1:15-17)

"We now know that our galaxy is only one of 100 thousand-million (100,000,000,000) galaxies that can be seen with modern telescopes; each galaxy containing 100 thousand-million (100,000,000,000) stars." 'Brief History of Time' by Stephen Hawking

According to some Australian astronomers, the number of stars in the *visible* universe is roughly equivalent to number of grains of sand in the world!

This passage is saying that all these stars were created through Jesus.

Average body has 75,000 *miles* of blood vessels. Every cell in your body has some DNA in it; if unravelled, each DNA string in each cell would be 1.8 metres long. If converted to one ribbon of DNA, from *one* body, it would circle the sun 260 times! And Jesus created us – out of nothing.

v.16 "for by him [Jesus] all things were created. Things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers, or rules or authority. All things were created by him and for him." He created it. He brought it out into existence out of nothing.

Latin phrase: EX NIHILO, meaning "out of nothing". Nothing there in the first place.

"All things were created by him and for him" – so how can you think you can add to him! It is a grave offence to think that we *might* seek to add to him.

Not just that *through* him all this was brought into being (end v.16), but created *for* him. From the greatest scale, to the tiniest thing you can imagine. All things.

Look up on a clear night and say, 'all this was created *for* Jesus and *by* Jesus'.

v.17 "In him all things hold together". Jesus is holding everything together. Our universe, rotation of the earth, the sunrise, etc.

All creation made by Jesus, through Jesus, for Jesus, kept going by Jesus.

You can't add to this! He is our Creator.

2. JESUS IS OUR SAVIOUR (COLOSSIANS 1:13-14,20)

a) Our Rescuer (v.13)

“Rescued us from the dominion of darkness”; from death, destruction, darkness. When you are rescued by someone, you never forget your rescuer. Jesus gave his life to be our rescuer.

b) Our Redeemer (v.14)

Jesus is the one from whom this redemption comes through. He is our Redeemer.

Means: “to buy back”, paying a ransom.

Because of our rebellion, the Devil is holding us captive, and Jesus bought us back paid the price when he died for us. The price (ransom demand) was Jesus’ own life. Jesus’ own blood shed for us. (You can’t add to that) Nothing more precious.

c) Reconciler (v.20)

God the Father reconciled himself all things... by make peace by his blood shed... Human beings and God are separated, and at war with each other through our own rebellion against God. Through Jesus’ death, he was bringing us back together again with God. He made ‘enemies’ friends again with God. He reconciled us. Jesus’ cross was cosmic and universal in its effectiveness as he died for us and shed his blood for us. How can you improve upon that?

Sporting records, political leadership and military leadership can be improved upon, but you will never improve upon Jesus. He is perfect.

3. JESUS IS OUR KING (COLOSSIANS 1:18-19)

a) King of the Universe

Jesus rules – everywhere, everything, everyone. There is no ‘cosmic battle’ going on, because the fight has been fought and the battle has been won. A wonderful and for all time victory at the cross of Christ.

Jesus therefore holds the authority over everything, and everyone. He is the King; the King of everyone, everywhere, everything. And...

b) King of the Church

This came through the resurrection; Jesus is back from the dead. The cross was not an appalling defeat, but he won the world’s greatest victory. And we know that for sure because of the resurrection on Easter day. He is alive and He rules, and He is the King in everything. He has the supremacy.

In Jesus we had all the fullness of God, living amongst us for about 33 years.

Conclusion

Jesus our Creator, our Saviour, our King walked this earth.

Everything must be about Jesus. He is all-consuming, captivating, awesome, extraordinary. He is the one-and-only.

When we consider our response to Him, and our worship, it had all got to be about Jesus. It's not Jesus plus what we can do to impress Him. It's not Jesus plus our commitment, or Jesus plus our rituals, or Jesus plus our attendance every single week. It is just simply Jesus. He is our everything.

Our response is bound to be about Jesus. He is the one-and-only. He is unbelievably wonderful. We can't add to Him. Why would you? Jesus is extraordinary.

Let's be consumed by Jesus: who He is, and all that He has done for us. Worship Him – simply Him, with *all* of our hearts.

AMEN