

## The Wonder of Jesus Christ

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Colossians 1:15-23 (page 157 in the black Bibles)

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**Wonder** – a feeling of surprise mingled with admiration, caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar, or inexplicable. *Synonyms* – awe, admiration, wonderment, fascination, surprise, astonishment, amazement.

The Wonder of Jesus Christ is seen in who He is and what He has done for the salvation of sinners.

Paul states at the end of his prayer in Colossians 1 what God has done for believers:

<sup>13</sup>For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Ephesians 1:7 says something similar: In Him [the Beloved] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses,...

Galatians 1:4-5 [Jesus Christ] who gave Himself for our sins so that He might rescue us from this present evil age according to the will of God our Father to whom be glory forevermore. Amen.

**Colossians 1:15-23 tells us who Jesus is and what He did for our salvation so that we, in wonder, might give ourselves to Him and worship Him forever.**

### WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

#### He Is the Image of the invisible God (v. 15a)

The invisible God –

1 Timothy 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory, forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 11:27)

The Image of... (Gr. eikon – Eng. icon) image or representation carries the idea of revealing the personal character of God. Jesus reveals to us what God is really like.

John 1:18 “No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him” (or made Him known).

Hebrews 1:3 And He [the Son] is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and He upholds all things by the word of His power....

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

John 1:1-3, 14; 14:7-9; Philippians 2:6

<sup>19</sup>**For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him,**

“He is the place in whom God, in all His fullness was pleased to take up His residence. All the attributes and activities of God—His spirit, word, wisdom and glory—are perfectly displayed in Christ.” (O'Brien, WBC, p 53)

Colossians 2:9-10 "For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority;"

### **He is the firstborn of all creation; the Creator of all things (15b-17)**

He is the firstborn of all creation.

Firstborn – first in order (Luke 2:7) or first in rank or highest honor

Exodus 4:22-23 "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, "Israel is My son, My firstborn. "So I said to you, 'Let My son go that he may serve Me'; but you have refused to let him go. Behold, I will kill your son, your firstborn.'"

Psalm 89:27 "I also shall make him *My* firstborn,  
The highest of the kings of the earth.

### **He is the Creator of All Things**

<sup>16</sup>For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.

John 1:3 "All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Hebrews 1:2 "In these last days He has spoken to us in the Son whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world."

### **He is Preeminent and Sustains All Things**

<sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

### **He is also head of the body, the church;**

Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

## **WHAT HAS JESUS CHRIST DONE?**

### **He Is the Means by which the Father Reconciled all things to Himself (vv. 20)**

<sup>20</sup>and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, [I say], whether things on earth or things in heaven.

To reconcile – bring about peace

Romans 5:6-11

Colossians 2:13-15

## The Purpose of Reconciliation

<sup>21</sup>And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, [engaged] in evil deeds,

<sup>22</sup>yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death,

in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—

Ephesians 1:4 “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.

## The Evidence of Reconciliation – Perseverance in the Gospel

<sup>23</sup>if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

### Application:

#### **And Can It Be that I Should Gain**

“Amazing love! How can it be, that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?”

Ponder the greatness of God in reconciling sinners to Himself through His Son.

Because of who He is and what He has done we must give Him first place in everything in our lives.

“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:1-2