

The Book of Colossians:
**“For in Him All the Fullness of God
Was Pleased to Dwell”**

Pastor David R. Nehrenz
Trinity Lutheran Church
Norman, OK.
Date: 9-16-18
Lesson: 2b
Text: Chapter 1:21-29



TEXT:

15 *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16* For by **him** all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created **through him and for him. 17** And **he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18** And **he is the head** of the body, the church. **He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

21 And *you*, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22** **he** has now reconciled in **his body of flesh by his death**, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that *you heard*, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which *I, Paul, became a minister.*

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in **Christ's afflictions** for the sake of his body, that is, *the church*, **25** of which *I became a minister* according to the stewardship **from God** that was given to me for you, to make the **word of God** fully known, **26** the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to *his saints. 27* To them **God** chose to make known how great among *the Gentiles* are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28** **Him** we proclaim, warning *everyone* and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present *everyone* mature in Christ. **29** For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

NOTES:

(vv. 15-23) *The Theology of the Person of Christ – The Union of the Two Natures*

His Humanity: And he is the head of the body, the church. (1 Cor 12:27)
the firstborn from the dead
the blood of his cross (Eph 2:13)
his body of flesh by his death (Rom 7:4)

His Deity: He is the image of the invisible God, (2 Cor 4:4; Heb 1:3; Jn 1:1-5,14)
the firstborn of all creation.
For by him all things were created
He is before all things, and in him all things hold together (Jn 8:58)
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, (1 Cor 15:20)
that in everything he might be preeminent.
For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell (Jn 1:16)

The result of Christ's work on our behalf:

through him to reconcile to himself all things, making peace by the blood of his cross. (Rom 8:21)
(And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds)
he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death,
in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him (2 Cor 4:14)

The effect this has on our lives:

if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, (Eph 3:17)
not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven

(vv. 24-29) *The Theology of the Cross - The Rich Gifts We Have in the Church*

the theology of the cross:

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, (2 Cor 6:10)
and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions (2 Cor 1:5)
for the sake of his body, that is, the church,

the rich gifts we have in the church:

the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, (Eph 3:2)
to make the word of God fully known,
the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. (Eph 1:9; 3:9)
the riches of the glory of this mystery, (Rom 16:25)
which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (Rom 8:10)
Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom,
that we may present everyone mature in Christ. (Mt 5:48; Eph 5:27)
all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. How do all three creeds confess the two natures of Christ ?
2. What are the signs that a religious group is a cult?
3. When you have to explain why Jesus is the only way to heaven, how does the doctrine of Christology enable you to give a clear answer?
4. Explain the difference between the theology of the cross and the theology of glory.

