



A new creation focus through Colossians ...

Who Christ Is and What He Has Done

It takes some serious spiritual reflection on the truths of the Bible to begin to really assess the value of Christ and what He has done for mankind — especially for those who will follow Him. To understand the awe-inspiring positives of Christ's rescue operation, mankind must understand the yawning darkness and destructive effects of being deceived by Satan. "The way of the wicked is like darkness," said wise Solomon, "they do not know over what they stumble" (Proverbs 4:19). "He who walks in the darkness does not know where he goes," was Jesus' clear comment (John

12:35). Jesus, therefore came to rescue mankind from the darkness, as He stated, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life" (John 8:12). "While you have the light," was the Lord's exordium, "believe in the light, in order that you may become sons of light" (John 12:36).

◆ **God's beloved Son** — The apostle Paul has been bringing forth the great things done by God through Christ for those who will walk in the footsteps of Jesus. "The Father," affirms the apostle, "qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light." The Almighty "delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:13,14). God is pictured, for our benefit and so that He might communicate clearly His love for us, as giving up His beloved Son — One whom He loved with love incomprehensible — so that mankind might come out of the darkness and live.

◆ **Redemption through Christ** — For that rescue operation to occur, Jesus had to: 1) suffer and die on the cross, 2) shed His blood from His body as a guilt offering as the soldiers pierced His side with a spear (for without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness), and then 3) in a spiritual way offer that blood in heaven itself as the resurrected High Priest of the order of Melchizedek. The redemption price for the "lost sheep" was high: the blood of Christ — shed on earth, sprinkled in glory. What a blessing, then, that full forgiveness can be obtained through Christ.

◆ **Who is Christ?** — Who is this Son of God? Who is this Emmanuel, God with us? "And He is," explains Paul, "the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation" (Colossians 1:15). He is the great Jehovah (Yaweh) God in human form, and as He ascends to glory and takes on His body of glory, He is the complete and exact communication of who God is. He is also "the first-born of all creation," meaning that He, as the "oldest son" in an earthly manner of speaking, is the One who possesses it all. Jesus was not "created first," as is the doctrine of groups such as the "Jehovah's Witnesses," but simply has the title of first-born because He is the only One yet permanently resurrected from the dead.

◆ **Christ the Creator** — Paul informs the brethren: "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 by Him and for Him" (Colossians 1:16). All the governments of the earth, all the good angelic beings, all the realm of Satan and his demons — the thrones visible and invisible — have been created by Christ, and for Christ. How encouraging it is to know the truths of this verse!

The basic point of these descriptions of the Christ is to exposit just how amazingly awesome and powerful He is. He therefore, in the realm of faith — the realm which cannot be seen but only known by what is written in God's word — has the mighty and extreme power and authority to rescue saints from the dominion of darkness and get them transferred, as they are born again, to His kingdom!

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