



A new creation focus through Colossians ...

## "The Father's Good Pleasure"

God, "the Father of all who is over all and through all and in all" (Ephesians 4:6), is powerful and awesome! Only rarely was God referred to as the Father in the Old Testament writings: "But now, O Lord, You are our Father, we are the clay and You our potter; and all of us are the work of Your hand," is one of them (Isaiah 64:8). The prayers and teachings of Jesus, however, really brought the Fatherhood of the Almighty to the fore. "I praise You, O Father," stated He in one His recorded prayers, "Lord of heaven and earth, that You hid these things from the

wise and intelligent and revealed them to babes" (Matthew 11:25). The "babes," then, are those who "humble themselves" to become like children in the sense of truly trusting the word of God, and not trying to lean on their own understanding.

- **All the fullness** — When Jesus quelled the storm and calmed the sea, the disciples were amazed. "What kind of man is this," was their query, "that even the winds and the sea obey Him?" (Matthew 8:27). It is a great question: who is this Jesus? "For it was the Father's good pleasure," expounds Paul, "for all the fullness to dwell in Him" (Colossians 1:19). This truly is an awesome verse: all of God dwelt in the body of Jesus. The Child that was born was the Prince of Peace indeed; but He was also the Almighty God, the everlasting Father, and the Wonderful Counselor [the Holy Spirit]! One hundred per cent of God was in Jesus. That is why He would say, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). And again, of the Holy Spirit, to the apostles, prior to His crucifixion, "You know Him because He abides with you" (John 14:17). The Holy Spirit was standing right there, the "other Helper" in the physical body of Christ. As incomprehensible as it may seem, the great God — who is so big the universe is inside Him — poured 100% of Himself into the physical body of Jesus. The "wise and intelligent" will stumble over this; the "babes" will accept it. After all, it was "the Father's good pleasure" that this should be so.

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things on earth.**

- **The reconciliation** — The angels who "sinned" — 2 Peter 2:4 — sinned in heaven. Hence the plan of God, "foreknown before the foundation of the world," had to incorporate a cleansing of heaven as well as accomplishing redemption on earth. It "was the Father's good pleasure," then, "through Him [Jesus] 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" (Colossians 1:20). This reconciliation was not accomplished by the mere shedding of Christ's blood on the cross; it was "through the blood of His cross." The blood had to pour from His side on Calvary's Mount, but as spiritual blood had to be sprinkled in the true Holy of Holies, heaven itself. The sacrifice of the Lamb of God would have had no effect were not the blood of the sacrifice offered in the courts of heaven by the great High Priest of the order of Melchizedek. This, then, is how the reconciliation and peace were accomplished, *through* blood of the cross, not *by* the blood of the cross.

Jesus' offering was not just for the things on earth. His death, resurrection, and ascension were universal; that is, they accomplished the reconciliation of "things on earth" and "things in heaven." This lets us know that there is not another planet out there with life; the plan of God was accomplished in its entirety *through* what took place on earth, to achieve heavenly purposes. "All things," in prospect, are reconciled to God through Christ. Everything about God was in Him, and He paid the full price to realize His earnestly desired reconciliation!

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