



“In Him and Through Him”

Colossians 1:19-20

December 19, 2021

MY STORY

1. What was Christmas like growing up for you? When do you recall the meaning of Christmas truly dawning upon you? That it was more than gift-giving and peace on earth, but the incarnation of God in Christ to save sinners?

QUICK REVIEW

Awaiting trial before Caesar in Rome, Paul is on house arrest. He receives a visit from one of his former students, Epaphras, who had planted the church in Colossae. Epaphras brings a glowing report of the church’s faithfulness and the report of false teaching infecting this small city. Paul writes to fortify the church with a clear, accurate view of the supremacy and the sufficiency of Christ Jesus for life and salvation.

In verses 15-20, it appears that Paul incorporates one of the early hymns of the Christian church. It presents a pure, elevated view of our all-sufficient Christ to bolster us against false doctrine. The final portion of the hymn declares why Christ must be viewed as preeminent. As it is, the final arguments for his preeminence present the meaning and purpose of Christmas.

Why is Christ to be worshipped as preeminent?

1. For what dwells in Him (1:19)
2. For what happens through Him (1:20)

Was any point in this weekend’s message or portion of Scripture particularly challenging, encouraging or helpful for you?

Why did God want you to hear this message now?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. What titles and descriptions of Christ do you find in Colossians 1:15-20? List as many as possible. Of these, which has come most meaningfully to you in our three week study of this passage?
2. As we've learned, most Bible scholars suggest Paul was incorporating an early Christian hymn in these verses. The hymn has two stanzas: 1:15-17 and 1:18-20 with "in Him all things hold together" as the centerline. Make up your own title for the whole song and a title for each stanza.

1:15-20

1:15-17

1:18-20

3. The meaning of Christmas is a matter of what was dwelling in Christ. How do these passages fill out what we learn in Colossians 1:19?

John 1:1-4

Colossians 2:9-10

Hebrews 1:1-5

4. The purpose of Christmas is a matter of what Christ came to do. How do these passages supplement what we learn in Colossians 1:20

Acts 20:28

Romans 5:6-11

Hebrews 10:19-25

5. In what ways are you drifting from your view of the preeminence of Christ? Is there anything you are looking to for peace with God or ultimate fulfillment? How does this passage bring you back to Jesus?