

East Cooper Baptist Church

December 11, 2016

God Revealed

Colossians 1:15-17

*"⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵**He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together."***

"Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high." **Hebrews 1:1-3**

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made...¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." **John 1:1-3, 14**

I. **The image of the invisible God.**

What Think Ye of Christ, Is the Test

by John Newton

What think ye of Christ? Is the test
To try both your state and your scheme;
You cannot be right in the rest,
Unless you think rightly of him;
As Jesus appears in your view,
As he is beloved or not,
So God is disposed to you,
And mercy, or wrath are your lot.

II. Christ is the head and sustainer of all creation. (vv. 15b-17)

III. Christ is the one who brings wholeness, joy, and shalom to our lives. (v. 17)

- If Christ is the image of the invisible God: I find purpose and dignity in his Word and work upon the cross.
- If Christ made all creation: then I rejoice in the beauty, goodness, and wonder of all creation (and live as an environmental steward).
- If Christ is the sustaining agent of all creation: I sleep well.
- If all things were made for Christ: then I find delight in joyful obedience.
- If in Christ all things hold together: I pursue this One who gives wholeness and purpose.

“He saw not only them [the angelic beings]; he saw Him [Christ]. This animal, this thing begotten in a bed, could look on Him. What is blinding, suffocating fire to you is now cool light to Him, its clarity itself, and wears the form of a Man.....All the delights of sense or heart, or intellect, with which you could once have tempted him, even the delights of virtue itself, now seems to him in comparison but as the half-nauseous attractions of a raddled [*irritated/worried*] harlot would seem to a man who hears that his true beloved whom he loved all his life and whom he had believed to be dead is alive and even now at the door.”

C.S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters*, XXXI, p. 143

“I believe that if we are to be consistent Christians, believing all of the Bible rather than portions of it, we must recognize that the supernatural places and beings described on its pages are real. There is an uncompromised supernaturalism at the heart of the Christian worldview, and we must not let the world’s skepticism with regard to these things affect our belief systems. WE must trust and affirm that there is much more to reality than meets the eye.”

R.C. Sproul, *Unseen Realities: Heaven, Hell, Angels, and Demons*