

## WHO IS JESUS

### Colossians 1:15-20

#### I. INTRODUCTION-

- a. At Christmas there is always a debate about the identity of Jesus.
  - i. The same was true in the day of Jesus.
  - ii. Jesus once asked His disciples, “*Who do men say that I am?*”
  - iii. *Matthew 16:14 “And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.”*
- b. To be compared to the great prophets of the Old Testament-
  - i. Would have been great praise for anyone else
  - ii. But to accept Jesus as anything less than who He really is-
    1. The Son of God and the Savior of the world.
    2. Is to reject Him.
- c. Many today try to strike some middle ground about the identity of Jesus.
  - i. They will say that Jesus was a great man.
  - ii. A great figure in history and a great religious leader.
  - iii. But they refuse to acknowledge that Jesus is God and the only Savior.
- d. *C.S. Lewis, the British theologian, said "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him: 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.' That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to."*
- e. There is no middle ground with Jesus.
  - i. One either accepts Him as the Savior and the Lord of all.
  - ii. Or they reject Him.
- f. In these verses, Paul tells us plainly Who Jesus is.

#### II. JESUS IS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD-

- a. *Colossians 1:15 "Who is the image of the invisible God."*
  - i. The word translated "image" means a precise copy.
  - ii. An exact representation, a faultless reproduction.
    - 1. A perfect replica, a flawless image.
    - 2. Like the image on a coin or in a mirror.
- b. Jesus is not only the representation of God-
  - i. He is the manifestation of God, Jesus is God Himself.
  - ii. *John 14:8-9 "Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father..."*
- c. Jesus was a great man. He was a great teacher.
  - i. He founded a great faith and a great church.
  - ii. But more than that, Jesus was God in human flesh.

### **III. JESUS IS THE FIRSTBORN OF ALL CREATION-**

- a. *Col. 1:15 "...the firstborn of every creature."*
  - i. The word "firstborn" here does not mean-
  - ii. That Jesus is a created being-
- b. The term refers to a position or rank.
  - i. In ancient times the firstborn son was the heir.
  - ii. He was the ranking one, the supreme one, the superior one.
  - iii. The one with the right of rule.
- c. In all of creation-
  - i. There is no one of higher or greater rank-
  - ii. Than the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - iii. He has no equal and no rival.

### **IV. JESUS IS THE CREATOR OF ALL THINGS-**

- a. *Col 1:16-17 "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him. And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."*
- b. Jesus is not just a man. He is not just a great teacher.

- i. Jesus is the Creator and He is the Sustainer-
  - ii. And the Ruler of the entire universe.
- c. Whatever is in heaven, whatever is on earth-
  - i. Whatever is visible and whatever is invisible-
  - ii. Jesus created it all, He rules it all and He holds it all together.
- d. Satan and man's rebellion stained His creation with sin-
  - i. But one day Jesus will end all rebellion-
  - ii. And restore His universe to its original glory.

## **V. JESUS IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH-**

- a. *Col 1:18 "And he is the head of the body, the church who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."*
- b. The church as we know it began-
  - i. When Jesus arose from the dead-
  - ii. Many reject the church today as unimportant-
    - 1. But Jesus loves the church. He is the Head of the church-
    - 2. He governs, guides, guards and gives life to His church.
- c. As Jesus is sovereign over His church-
  - i. He is sovereign over all of creation-
  - ii. That will clearly be seen when He comes again-
- d. For a local church to have-
  - i. The power and the anointing of God-
  - ii. It must stay connected to the Head of the church.
  - iii. And in all things Jesus must have the preeminence.

## **VI. JESUS IS THE REDEEMER WHO CAME INTO THE WORLD-**

- a. *Col 1:19-20 "For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; 20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven."*
- b. Jesus Christ, the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation-
  - i. The Creator of all things, the head of the church-
  - ii. Came into the world as a human being-

1. And died on a cross for all of our sins and rose again-
2. To make it possible that we might be-
3. Redeemed from sin and reconciled to God.

c. That is what Christmas is all about!

## **VII. CONCLUSION-**

- a. Who do you say that Jesus is?
  - i. Is Jesus your Lord and Savior?
  - ii. Does He have the preeminence in your life?
- b. The kind of life you have now-
  - i. And your eternal destiny-
  - ii. Depend on what you do with Jesus Christ-
- c. You have two choices-
  - i. You can repent of your sin-
  - ii. And receive Jesus as the Lord and Savior of your life-
    1. When you do you will receive forgiveness of sin-
    2. And the gift of eternal life-
- d. Or you can refuse to give your life to Christ and be lost forever
  - i. It's your choice.
  - ii. Why would you reject the One Who died for you?