

DEVOTIONAL 7

Colossians 1:15-20

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¹⁵The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Colossians 1 is a powerful portrayal of the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Though human, and born of a regular person, he somehow also existed before creation, for “all things have been created through him.” As if this isn’t puzzling enough, we see that, in this passage, God uses Christ to reconcile “all things” to himself. “All things” is quite the all-encompassing phrase. Typical Christian doctrine often looks at the sacrifice of Christ as being blood shed for all of humanity. Whether Jew, Greek, male, female, free or slave, Jesus died for our sake. But, according to this passage, Jesus died for far more than us. He died for everything – planets, stars, angels, demons, trees, lakes – everything.

And, in the midst of all of this reconciling, we are confronted with an amazing insight: Jesus, with “all of God’s fullness dwelling in him,” is the head of the body, the church. We, God’s people, are the arms and legs of Jesus. Our primary calling is to live out Jesus’ mission here on this earth!

If we trace God’s mission through Scripture, we see a climax in the life of Jesus. Throughout both the Old and New Testament, we read how God is working toward the reconciliation of all people and all creation – a new Heaven and new earth. What an amazing privilege, and responsibility, to be included in this mission through Jesus!

In the meantime, all of creation – including us – is groaning. Sin and suffering continue to abound everywhere we look. Thankfully, we have hope through Jesus that our trials on this earth are short-lived, but let’s not live only for that future union with Jesus. Our time on earth is precious and short. Every day we have the opportunity to live as Jesus’ arms and legs and carry out his purposes to reconcile all things to God.

In a world of brokenness, it can be overwhelming to know where to begin. Thank God we aren’t responsible for changing the earth – God will do this with or without us. But how much better will our lives and future be if we play an important role in that mission? Thank God for the Spirit, who will empower and guide us, and without which our efforts would be in vain.

God desires to have a deep relationship with us, which in turn will develop our relationship with other people and with creation. It is time for us to turn to God for our own redemption, and thus be empowered to play a role in the reconciliation of all things.

Prayer: God, how do you want to start reconciling my relationship with your world?

