

Colossians 1:15-23

“The Essence of God that Dwells in His Son”

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, existed before all things were created and He himself created all things. The Son sacrificed himself on the cross to reconcile God with sinful human beings. God shows love to us and makes us new. This Son is the essence of God.

1. Reading: Let’s read the Bible.

Let’s read Colossians 1:15-23 and mark the passage as you read it.

[?] ... for a question or doubt.

[!] ... for a good impression. i.e. “I like what this verse says.”

*Talk about the verses you marked. What did you have a question about or why did you like a particular verse?

Colossians 1:15-23

The Preeminence of Christ

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For 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. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. ESV

2. Focus: Let’s discuss the focus

Contents: What did you find written here? Make a summary of the contents and express in your own words.

Focus: What is the focus of the selected passage? Summarize. (the answers may vary)

3. Study: Using the questions as hints, let`s study the Bible together.

(1) (verses 15-18) How is the Son of God described in this passage?

(2) v. 19 says, *“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,”*

How is Jesus perfectly both man and God?

(3) v. 20 says, *“and through him to reconcile to himself all things,”*

How is this reconciliation accomplished for us?

(4) Verses 21 and 22 describe a “Before/After” relationship between God and ourselves.

What do you think about this change? If you are a Christian, please feel free to share your experience of this change and reconciliation.

(5) In verse 23 what difference can you find between people`s hope or expectations in general and the hope of the Gospel?

(6) In verse 23, Paul states *“if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard,”*

Paul exhorted the Colossians in this way because they had been deceived by erroneous teaching and thoughts. Are there things that separate us from Jesus in our daily lives? What can we do to keep the faith?

4. Application: How does this apply to our lives?

Share freely new things you have realized or learned from this Bible study.