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## **The Work of the Son in the Gospel**

A Study in Colossians

### **I. The Text - Colossians 1:15-23** (See Block Diagram handout)

### **II. The Meaning**

#### **A. The Preeminence of Christ. (1:15-20)**

1. Christ is first because He is \_\_\_\_\_. (15)
  - a) He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
  - b) He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
2. Christ is first because He \_\_\_\_\_ everything. (16)
  - a) All things were created \_\_\_\_\_ him.
  - b) All things were created \_\_\_\_\_ him.
  - c) All things were created \_\_\_\_\_ him
3. Christ is first because He \_\_\_\_\_ all things together. (17)
4. Christ is first because He is \_\_\_\_\_ creation. (18-20)
  - a) Those who are redeemed belong to the \_\_\_\_\_ whose head is Christ.
  - b) Christ is head of the Church because he was the \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead.
  - c) Christ can redeem creation because of his \_\_\_\_\_ on the cross.

## **B. The Reconciliation of Christ. (1:21-23)**

1. The Need for Reconciliation. (21)
  - a) This answers the question of \_\_\_\_\_ we need to be reconciled.
  - b) God's \_\_\_\_\_ was at odds with our \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The Means of Reconciliation. (22a)
  - a) This answers the question of \_\_\_\_\_ we can be reconciled.
  - b) Because Jesus became a \_\_\_\_\_, he could be our \_\_\_\_\_ and take the death penalty for our sins.
3. The Scope of Reconciliation. (22b)
  - a) This answers the question to \_\_\_\_\_ extent are we reconciled.
  - b) If you have been reconciled by the blood of Christ, you are now \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and above \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The Condition of Reconciliation. (23)
  - a) This answers the question of \_\_\_\_\_ is reconciled.
  - b) Only those who place their \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ are reconciled to God.
  - c) This faith is demonstrated by a \_\_\_\_\_ commitment to the hope the gospel gives us.

### III. The Application

Margery was raised on a farm in western Kansas. Her mother grew up Catholic, but her father did not attend church before getting married. Her family occasionally went to a small community church in a nearby town on special occasions like Christmas and Easter. As a child, Margery also enjoyed going to VBS each summer at this church. Although Margery was familiar with a few bible stories, she had never felt the conviction of her sin or placed her faith in Christ. However, this changed when she left home for college and got involved in a campus ministry. She was drawn to this group because she could see there was something different about these students, and she wanted to experience the same joy she could plainly see lived out in their lives. One evening after a Bible study, she prayed with one of the other students and asked Jesus to forgive her sins. Because most of her new friends from this campus ministry attended a church in town, she also attended this church with them.

However, as some time passed, doubt started to creep into Margery's mind about her eternal life. She became anxious when she thought about what would happen to her if she were to die. Saying a simple prayer seemed too easy a way to receive eternal life, and she wondered if she needed to do more. Could Jesus, the little baby born in a manger, really save her? After wrestling with these thoughts, Margery decided to seek advice from an unquestionably reliable source: ChatGPT. She typed in "How can I know for sure that I will go to Heaven when I die?" Chat responded with several points, but there were two that stuck out to her. First, she was told that nothing could be known with 100% certainty. The second point of advice was to focus on doing good things like being kind, loving others, and living with integrity. Doing these things should help her feel better about her chances of going to Heaven.

- You are a member of the same church Margery is attending with her college friends. One of Margery's friends wants you to meet with her. How would you counsel Margery with this passage from Colossians? How could a high view of Christ from Colossians 1:15-19 be applied to the doubt and anxiety Margery is experiencing about the ability of Jesus to forgive her sins?

- Part of Margery's anxiety comes from feeling guilty about a sinful relationship she had with her boyfriend in high school. She doubts that Jesus could really forgive her for what she has done. What truths from this passage would help Margery understand the power and greatness of who Jesus is? How would this help her to have confidence that Jesus has forgiven her sins?
  
- What danger does Margery need to be warned about from verse 23? How has she been tempted to stray from the truth of the gospel already?