

THE MAGNIFICENCE OF CHRIST

(Colossians 1:12-19)

- I. Christ is the REDEEMER, Who alone is worthy of our GRATITUDE (Col. 1:12-14)
 - A. To the Father for QUALIFYING us to share in “the INHERITANCE”
 - 1. He RESCUES us from the dominion of DARKNESS
 - 2. He TRANSFERS us into the kingdom of HIS SON
 - B. To the Son for REDEEMING us—“To buy back and release a PRISONER or CAPTIVE by paying a RANSOM”
 - 1. The PRICE of our redemption was Jesus’ BLOOD
 - 2. The RESULT of our redemption is FORGIVENESS of sins and RELEASE from condemnation

- II. Christ is the REVEALER, Who alone is worthy of our PRAISE (Col. 1:15)
 - A. He’s the “IMAGE of the INVISIBLE God”
 - 1. Seen in Jesus’ OBEDIENCE—DEPENDENT upon the Father
 - 2. Seen in Jesus’ WORDS—DECLARING the Father
 - 3. Seen in Jesus’ POWER—DEPICTING the Father
 - 4. Seen in Jesus’ GLORY—DEMONSTRATING the Father
 - B. He’s the “FIRSTBORN” over all CREATION
 - 1. First in order of PRIORITY

2. First in order of PRIVILEGE

III. Christ is the CREATOR, Who alone is worthy of our OBEDIENCE (Col. 1:16-17)

- A. Asserts Jesus' PRE-EXISTENCE of creation—All things were made AFTER Him (cf. John 1:1-2)
- B. Asserts Jesus' POWER over creation—All things were made BY Him (cf. John 1:3)
 - 1. Includes the PHYSICAL universe
 - 2. Includes the SPIRITUAL realm
- C. Asserts Jesus' PREEMINENCE over creation—All things were made FOR Him
- D. Asserts Jesus' PRESENCE within creation—All things are SUSTAINED by Him

IV. Christ is the HEAD of the Church, Who alone is worthy of our LOYALTY (Col. 1:18)

- A. Asserts Jesus' AUTHORITY
- B. Asserts Jesus' PRIORITY
- C. Asserts Jesus' SUPERIORITY

V. Christ is DIVINE, Who alone is worthy of our WORSHIP (Col. 1:19)

- A. He is God PERSONALLY
- B. He is God PERMANENTLY