

JESUS IN FIRST PLACE

Last week we looked at: Jesus at the center

This week we look at: Jesus at the top

How do we live with Jesus in "first place" in our lives?

Colossians 1:13-14, "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"

I. Thank Him For My Salvation

4 thanksgivings that transform our lives:

1. He Delivered us.
2. He Translated us.
3. He Redeemed us.
4. He has Forgiven us.

Colossians 1:15-18, "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 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. 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."

II. Believe The Truth About Him.

The Colossians faced a heresy that threatened their view of who Jesus really is.

What threatens your view?

1. He is God.
2. He is Firstborn.
1 Corinthians 15:47, "The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven."
Psalms 89:27, "Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth."
3. He is Creator.
4. He is Owner.
5. He is Sustainer.
6. He is Head Of The Body.
7. He is The Beginning Of The Church.
8. He is The First Born From The Dead.

We know we've recognized the truth about Jesus when it changes our Lives.

Colossians 1:19-20, "For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; 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."

In order to live in commitment to the truth about Jesus we all must recognize and refuse the temptation to lessen Him.

In His relationship to God all the fullness

In His relationship to creation all things reconciled

Two simple questions with amazing answers!

What was God reconciling? All of His creation

How did God reconcile? Making peace through His blood

Colossians 1:21-23, "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprieveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;"

III. Trust Him For Your Future

Paul uses three striking words to describe our condition prior to the cross.

1. Alienated
2. Enemies
3. Wicked

Then he uses three words to express our condition after the cross.

1. Holy
2. Unblameable
3. Unreprieveable

What is the big "IF" in verse 23? Eternal Reward

3 words that enable us to give Jesus His rightful place...first place!

1. Thankful
2. Truth
3. Trust