

May 21, 2023

Christ Is All

by George Slover

“where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all. (Colossians 3:11)

There must have been quite a “melting pot” of disciples in the church at Colosse. Among those named were Greeks, Jews, circumcised, uncircumcised, Scythian, slave, and free. Just who are these people? What is the essence of the message in this text?

The various classes of people named in the text represent the various, national, ritualistic, cultural, and social classes found in this ancient church. Each of these classes marked sharp distinctions among them. But in Christ all such divisions are obliterated. Thus, those of Abraham’s seed could not boast of superiority over the Greeks. There was no advantage for the Gentile to conform to Judaism in the ritual of circumcision. The gospel lifts both the barbarian and the Scythian (considered to be a worse type of barbarian) into the dignity of Christian fellowship. Christ has placed both the bondman and free on the same level. Christ is all and in all!

Christ gave them a common access to God. In fact he is the only way to God. He is the common redeemer and intercessor. There is no need for additional grace or supplement of the law.

Christ gave them common requirements. Their entire focus was to be on imitating Him and being His disciple. Christ was to be the whole of their lives, ruling every facet from their homes, to school, to the market place.

Christ gave them a common motive. The operative word is love marked by a spirit of gentleness, forbearance, and meekness. It is manifested by a humble and forgiving disposition. There was no room for self-pride that promoted the social distinctions of the day.

The message of Paul to the Colossians must reach our hearts today. We must remember who we are- God’s children. Remember how we arrived at such a status – by God’s grace. And remember to treat our fellow Christians in the same way God treated us – with mercy. It may be challenging, but it must be done for the cause of Christ.

Unity in Diversity

By George Slover

“For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,” (Romans 1:20)

The following is copied from “I Don’t Have Enough Faith To Be An Atheist,”

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Singing - Northwest church of Christ, Austin, - June 3

Bulverde Summer Series - Bulverde church of Christ, Every Thursday June 1 - August 17

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

Norman Geisler, pg. 19:

“The term ‘university’ is actually a composite of the words ‘unity’ and ‘diversity’. When one attends a university, he supposed to be guided in the quest to find unity in diversity – namely, how the diverse fields of knowledge (the arts, philosophy, the physical sciences, mathematics, etc.) fit together to provide a unified picture of life. A tall task indeed, but one that the modern university has not only abandoned but reversed. Instead of universities, we now have pluraversities, institutions that deem every viewpoint, no matter how ridiculous, just as valid as any other- that is, except the viewpoint that just one religion or worldview could be true.”

Regardless of the viewpoint of the “learned men” of academia, one cannot ignore the above logic of Paul. The question: “Did an intelligent and powerful Being create this world?” Paul says logically one must conclude this to be so. When one looks honestly and objectively, he will find unity in diversity – i.e. he will discover a common thread in five diverse questions.

The five most important questions of life are these:

Origin: Where did I come from?

Identity: Who are we?

Meaning: Why are we here?

Morality: How should we live?

Destiny: Where are we going?

The answers to these questions depend on the existence of God. If God exists, then there’s meaning and purpose to your life. If there is a real purpose to your life, then there is a right way and a wrong way to live it. On the other hand, if there is no God, then your life means nothing. Since there is no purpose to life, there is no right or wrong way and it doesn’t matter how you live or what you believe – your eternity is dust.

Which of the two above models offers man the greatest opportunity for hope and joy?

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility and had a procedure to gauge the viability of a treatment for the pain.

Jerry Richardson is still undergoing treatments to strengthen his immune system.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Randall Vanaman had surgery on his foot and is recovering.

Doug Adair had surgery on his back and is recovering.

Lisa Mullen (Darrell’s sister) is undergoing chemotherapy.

Mercedes Munoz (in Chiapas) is undergoing treatment for her liver and kidneys.

Margaret Vanaman had surgery on an infected section of her arm.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization – we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

Evangelist

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