

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Prison Letters
Colossians 1:15-23

Last time...the Apostle Paul's Spirit-led prayer for the Colossians

- petition for them (v9-11)
- praise to Whom alone is worthy of praise (v12-14)

This time...the reason for the praise: Jesus is

v12-14

Jesus is

- Son of God
- King of kings
- Redeemer of slaves to sin and death
- "Buyer/Debt Payer" for the forgiveness of sins against the OTL God

In these very tumultuous end times confronted with an endless stream of the world's

- discouragements
- distractions
- noise
- trials
- tribulations
- temptations
- madness

let's remember what Jesus said about these times

Matt 24:6 *And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet.*

Matt 24:7 *For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.*

UK Foreign office:

20% of the earth landmass too dangerous to visit
66 locations/nations are partially or totally "no go" areas
24 of the 66 advised for only essential travel

Former Royal Navy chief Admiral Lord West told The Sun: "I have never known the world to be more dangerous and unpredictable."

Matt 24:9 *Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.*
(Christians and Jews, ramping up worldwide)

Matt 24:13 *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

so we remain steadfast in our

- absolute confidence in the Person of Jesus Christ
- unwavering assurance in the work of Jesus Christ

John 14:1 **Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.**

Ps 23

Jesus is:

- my shepherd, feeding and caring for, protecting, and guiding me
- everything I need
- my rest
- my peace of heart and mind
- my strength and my encourager even in the worst of times
- my righteousness before the holy God at all times
- the conqueror of my enemy – the 2nd death
- my merciful ever-present companion
- my comfort
- the Head of household that is my home

Heb 1:1-3

Jesus is:

- The Son of God
- The Father's heir of all things
Rom 8:17
Col 1:12 our inheritance in light/eternal life
- the Voice of God Who said, "Let there be..."
- the brightness of the glory of God, brighter than the sun
- the express image (exact representation) of the Person of God the Father
- upholding/bearing ALL things by the word/utterance of His almighty, supernatural power
- Personally responsible for the purging of our sin and the cleansing our souls
- seated at the right hand (place of power and authority) of the Father in heaven

John 1:1-4, 14

Jesus is:

- eternal, pre-existent, had no beginning of existence and has no end of existence
- The Word, the Voice of God
- God
- Creator
- Life
- Light
- made flesh, in the likeness of men, in the form of a servant, that came to earth to reveal to man the glory and grace and truth of God
- the only begotten of the Father, the Son of the Father, the Son of God, God the Son (on the day of His Resurrection from the dead unto eternal Life)
Hence, John 3:16

Now, **Col 1:15-23**

We read, meditate on, and study the Person, the work, the Superiority, and the Preeminence of Jesus Christ so we

- know
 - Who we know and Who knows us
 - that we know what we know
- remain steadfast and calm in a world reeling to and fro like a drunkard, headed for destruction

v15 Jesus is the image/likeness seen/visible representation of the invisible/unseen God
Heb 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. (Ex 3:2, 6, 14)

1 John 1:1-3

John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.

John 4:24 *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*

At His Resurrection, He was begotten (given a glorified, eternal body)

Ps 2:7 the LORD hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

Acts 13:30-33 But God raised him from the dead: And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people. And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

After His Resurrection Jesus was plainly seen

1 Cor 15:3-8 how that Christ (body of flesh) died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day (glorified, eternal body) according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born (again) out of due time.

Then Jesus returned home to sit at the right hand of the Father, now is unseen

1 Tim 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, *be* honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Unseen until we His followers see Him face-to-face

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

But on the appointed day,

Rev 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth (unbelievers) shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Jesus is...continual present tense

Jesus said, “**Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.**”
(John 8:58)...continual present tense

Jesus is the firstborn of every creature

“firstborn” is NOT “born first” i.e. a created being
further developed in v16-17

“firstborn” is the position of prominence
further developed in v18-19

Ex: the sons of Jacob

“born first” is Reuben

“firstborn” is Joseph, 11 of 12 but given the double portion of the firstborn/prominent (Gen 48:22)

the sons of Joseph

“born first” is Manasseh

“firstborn”/prominent is Ephraim

Gen 48:19 his (Manasseh’s) younger brother shall be greater than he

Jer 31:9 Ephraim *is* my firstborn.

Jesus is the firstborn/prominent/most important of all creation...because

v16 Jesus is the Creator of creation

He created ALL things

- in heaven
 - angels (invisible, but sometimes visible per Heb 13:2)
 - thrones
 - dominions
 - principalities
 - powers

- sun, moon, and stars (visible and invisible)
Ps 33:6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.
- birds, flying insects, micro-organisms (visible and invisible)
- in earth
 - land and sea
 - plant life, in land and sea (visible and invisible)
 - animal life, in land and sea (visible and invisible)
 - mankind, made in the image of God

Jesus is.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

John 8:12

Jesus is the very object of and the very reason for all of creation

Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

v17 Jesus is before all things...not “first in line” but

- superior to
- in the forefront of
- before time

John 1:27, 30 He it is, who coming after me (in time and geography) is preferred (existed) before (in time and existence) me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose...This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before (in time and existence) me: for he was before (time and foremost in importance) me.

Jesus is why and how all things consist, are sustained

Jesus is.

Jesus said, “I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”

John 6:35

Jesus said, “It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

Matt 4:4

Jesus is why and how all things consist, are held together

He is the power that keeps all atoms in the universe from “exploding”

Like-charged particles (protons in an atom’s nucleus) repel...
yet they don’t!

Opposite-charged particles (protons and electrons) attract...
yet they don’t!

Atoms are “held” by a power scientists do not understand

But scientists have learned that breaking the molecular structure releases a
vast amount of energy/power when the like-charged particles
actually do repel

Therefore the power retaining the molecular structure is greater than the
power released when the molecular structure is broken...
the power of Jesus, revealed in the Word of God

Ps 119:90b-91 thou hast established the earth, and it abideth. They
continue this day according to thine ordinances (Word): for
all *are* thy servants.

until the day Jesus “lets go” of these servants

2 Peter 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in
the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise,
and the elements shall melt/dissolved with fervent heat, the
earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

v15-17 Jesus is the absolute and almighty Sovereign

- on earth and in heaven
- in the physical realm and in the spiritual realm

worthy of our trust/faith (Heb 11:1)

v18 Jesus is the Head of the Body aka the Church...a living Body

All believing Jews and all believing Gentiles...whosoever believes the testimony
of God the Father about Jesus the Son of God

All “churches” (local congregations)

Calvary Ahwatukee is His Church, not mine

Jesus is NOT the Head of unbelievers and their congregations

The Church of Satan, for example

A growing sociological trend to meet the need for “community” are
secular “churches” for unbelievers in Jesus Christ who proclaim
they are “good without God”

Weekly meetings, singing, testimonies, socializing...all without Jesus

Ceremonies for births, weddings, funerals, etc

These are “head-less” bodies...dead bodies

Jesus is the

- beginning...commencement, first
- firstborn...most important

from the dead...resurrection from the dead carnal body (physical death) unto eternal life in a glorified body

Jesus is.

Jesus said, “**I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead (physical), yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die (2nd death). Believest thou this?**”

John 11:25-26

Only God has power over death

John 10:17-18

Jesus is the 1st and foremost of the 1st Resurrection

1 Cor 15:22-23 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

John 5:29 **they that have done good** (believed/trusted in Jesus Christ), **unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil** (not believed in Jesus Christ), **unto the resurrection of damnation.**

Rev 20:6a Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power

Rev 20:14-15 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire (2nd death).

that...to the intent that

in all...creation, creatures, in particular man made in the image of God (you and me!)

He might have...His is caused to be, He is become

the preeminence...superiority, most important, above and before all (“firstborn”)

Acts 4:12 no other name

Acts 15:36 Lord of all

Phil 2:9-11 every knee and every tongue

1 Cor 15:24-28 Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies (who do not want His preeminence and do not bow to His preeminence) under his feet. The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under *him*, *it is* manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

v19 Jesus is the fulness of the Godhead (Col 2:9),
the mystery of God and all that God is permanently resides in His glorified body

Jesus is God, God's greatest revelation of Himself to mankind

v20 Jesus is the Peace Maker, the Prince of peace

Is 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth (a ceasefire), give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

John 16:33a These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace.

Rom 5:1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Matt 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.

God's peace terms: Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Cor 2:2)

The price of peace: Man with a sinless life, Man with blood not defiled by even the sin nature of man!

Jesus is.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

John 14:6

By the blood of Jesus we have

- redemption \ v12
- the forgiveness of sins /
- peace with God

v21-22 Because

- Jesus is
- Jesus said
- we believe Jesus is and Jesus said

Jesus is the “re-Maker”, the reconciler of

- all things, in earth and in heaven

Rom 8:19-23

Rev 21:5 I make all things new

- fallen, sinful man to God to Himself and to the Father,
when we were estranged from and enemies of God,
having a corrupted mindset, rejecting the preeminence of Jesus Christ and
exalting ourselves in our own preeminence,
as evidenced by the warped things we did.

Jesus is.

Jesus said, “I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.”

John 10:9

We are now reconciled to God,
in the body of Jesus’ flesh through death

Acts 2:23-24 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

Rom 6:3-11

changed from the inside out (mind and nature)!

Eph 2:1-9

John 16:27 For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

2 Cor 5:17-21

made presentable to the holy God

- holy
- unblameable...as faultless as the Head
- unreprieveable...unaccused, unrepachable (“Teflon” even under the withering assault by the accuser of the brethren)

Jesus is.

Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.”

John 10:11

Jude 24-25 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present *you* faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,
To the only wise God our Saviour, *be* glory and majesty, dominion
and power, both now and ever. Amen.

v23 If...a condition!
we continue in the faith, grounded and settled
Jesus is the Author and Finisher of Faith (Heb 12:2)

Jesus is.

Jesus said John 15:1-10

Jesus said, *If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

John 8:31-32

By continuing/abiding we

- will be
 - grounded...standing on a Sure Foundation
 - settled...steadfast and unmovable
- will not be
 - moved away from the hope of the gospel...1st resurrection
 - depart from the faith (1 Tim 4:1)
 - deceived and fall away (Matt 24:4-5, 11; 2 Thes 2:3)
 - unfruitful (Soil #2, Soil #3, John 15:6)
 - as Demas (Col 4:4, 2 Tim 4:10)

Our security is...in Christ

James 4:4-5, 6-10

Jesus' part:

- Creator
- Perfect Sacrifice, God's Substitute for us
- Savior
- Redeemer
- Peace Maker
- Reconciler/Re-Maker
- Resurrection of Eternal Life
- Preeminent Eternal Sovereign
- Shepherd

Our part:

- Abide...always tapped into, staying put
- Continue...never stopping
- Stand fast...focused, finish well our course

Security: Knowing Jesus and making Jesus known!

And in so doing, knowing the Father and making the Father known!

John 14:7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also:
and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.