

BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

What Should the Lord's Majesty Mean to You?

Colossians 1:15-2:7

¹ What should the Lord's majesty mean to you? Colossians, chapter 1, verse 15 through chapter 2, verse 7, defines what that majesty is, why that's important and how we should respond to it. ²

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹ ³

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Once you were alienated from God and were

¹ 1:15-18.

enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.²

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But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation — if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.^{3 5}

Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness — the mystery that has been kept hidden for

² 1:19-21.

³ 1:22-23.

ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.⁴ ⁶

To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me.⁵ ⁷

I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of

⁴ 1:24-26.

⁵ 1:27-29.

wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. ⁶ ⁸

For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is. So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁷

So, what is His majesty? ⁹

I. How Majestic is the Lord Jesus? – v15-17

How majestic is the Lord Jesus? ¹⁰

Verse 15 says **He is the image of the invisible God . . .** He is the revealer of God. ¹¹ The word “image” ⁸ is where we get our English word “icon”. It means to be the exact representation of the real thing. You place a sheet of paper with an image on it in a copy machine.

⁶ 2:1-4.

⁷ 2 ;5-7.

⁸ εἰκών.

When you push the copy button the machine spits out an exact duplicate of the original image. Lord Jesus is the physical image of God. ¹²

The rest of that verse says He is **the firstborn over all creation.** ¹³ This doesn't imply that He was a created being. It means first born in the Old Testament sense. He is the Lord and heir of creation; it all belongs to Him as the firstborn son. ¹⁴

Creation was in Him, through Him and for Him. ⁹ ¹⁵ This includes the visible; everything you can see. ¹⁶ But it also includes the invisible. There is the metaphysical; the world of the spirits in another dimension. ¹⁷ The idea here is that everything that exists was created for Him! ¹⁸

Our Lord Jesus is the sustainer of everything. ¹⁰ He keeps the universe together and functioning. ¹⁹

⁹ Colossians 1:16 - For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

¹⁰ Colossians 1:17 - He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

He is the head of His church. ¹¹ He is to be the church's primary loyalty. He is to be the first in our lives! ²⁰

So . . .

II. Why Should Lord Jesus Be First? – v18-20

Why should Lord Jesus be first? ²¹

The first reason He should be first in your life is because of who He is. He is God in flesh! Verse 19 states, **For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him.** ²² All God wants you to know about Him was embodied in Lord Jesus. ²³ The angel speaking to the Virgin Mary said, **The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.** ¹² ²⁴ John, the Baptist's testimony was, **I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God.** ²⁵ Even the demons proclaimed it, **“What do you want with us,**

¹¹ Colossians 1:18 - And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

¹² Luke 1:35.

Son of God?” they shouted. “Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?” ¹³ ₂₆ **Thomas confirmed it in the upper room, My Lord and my God!**

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Not only should He be first in your life because He is God; He should be first because of what He did for you. He provided salvation for you! ¹⁴ ₂₈ **In fact John, chapter 14, says that Lord Jesus was resurrected to pave the way for you and to prepare a place for you, Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.** ¹⁵ ₂₉

¹³ Matthew 8:29.

¹⁴ Colossians 1:19-20 - For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

¹⁵ John 14:1-3.

Verse 18 calls Jesus **the firstborn from among the dead**. Firstborn ¹⁶ refers to the Lord being the chief person within the realm of the dead; as well as the living for that matter. ³⁰ Because of that, verses 19 and 20 can conclude that the blood of the cross reconciled everything to God. It made everything right by making peace with Him. ¹⁷

So, Lord Jesus is your ultimate authority by right of creation and by right of redemption! ³¹

III. How Should You Respond to the Lord's Majesty? – v21-2:7

How should you respond to the Lord's majesty? ³²

The first response should be to continue in your faith.

¹⁸ Remain true to the Lord even when you can't

¹⁶ πρωτότοκος.

¹⁷ Colossians 1:19-20 - For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

¹⁸ Colossians 1:21-23 - Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation — if you continue in your faith, established

understand why. ³³ In your pre-Christian life you were alienated from God because of your sin. Sin separated you from God. Although God loves everyone, He can't tolerate sin. Sin is rebellion against Him. ³⁴

So, what does redemption do for you? ³⁵ The word "reconcile" ¹⁹ means to bring back to complete friendship, to reunite. The Lord reconciled you back to God when He died on the cross. ³⁶ As a result, you are now holy and without blemish in God's sight. ³⁷

The phrase "without blemish" refers to the Old Testament sacrificial system. To be acceptable as an offering, an animal had to be without blemish. ³⁸

Verse 24 gives us the second response, **Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. We should endure suffering when it is for the Lord and His**

and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

¹⁹ ἀποκατάλλάσσω.

church. The Apostle Paul was willing to suffer for the church because the Lord suffered for the church. Answer this question: Is life tougher for you because you won't compromise your Christian principles? ³⁹

The third response is don't be led away by speculative teachings. Stick to what the Bible plainly says! Verses 25 through 29, **I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness — the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.** ⁴⁰

There was a false teaching when this letter was written that you needed to believe "mystery" information in addition to the simple gospel. The idea of Gnosticism would develop more in the next couple

of centuries. It inferred you had to have this special “knowledge” to be a true Christian. ⁴¹

In verse 27 the apostle infers, “Do you want to know what this secret mystery is? It’s Christ in you!” It’s the simple gospel message that’s been preached to you all along. ⁴² This “mystery”, the simple gospel, gives you hope (for eternal life). ⁴³ Wisdom so you can live an abundant life here and now. ⁴⁴ Growth to lead you towards Christian maturity (perfection). ⁴⁵

The final response is in chapter 2, verses 1 through 7; continue living in Christ! ⁴⁶

What’s the difference between receiving Christ and living in Christ? Living in Christ is not a static state; it’s a continuing process! ²⁰ ⁴⁷ It’s the process of encouraging and uniting with fellow believers in love. ²¹ It’s not just a private thing between you and God. ⁴⁸ It’s a matter of developing a mature understanding of what the gospel is (the mystery). ⁴⁹

²⁰ 2:6.

²¹ 2:2-4.

The result of your maturing faith will be a strong, overflowing, gratitude to the Lord Jesus! ²² 50

The Lord Jesus is God! He is supreme! Since He made you His child, you are royalty.

So, live in Him!

<http://biblelifemessages.org/>

²² 2:6-7.