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GRACE**

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**By Him All Things
Were Created
in
Heaven and on Earth.**

(Colossians 1:1-26)

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

By Him all things were Created in Heaven and on Earth.

The words, "All things were created through him and for him" have been used to support the theory Jesus is God. Those who believe this doctrine believe that Paul is saying Jesus created all things and therefore reason that he must be God, but is this what Paul is really saying.

Since the belief that Jesus is God is such an ingrained doctrine amongst the global body of Christ we need to start at the beginning of the chapter so that the words, "All things were created through him and for him" are seen in the context of the entire chapter and not lifted out and isolated from what Paul actually had in mind when he wrote the letter.

- **Colossians 1:1-8:** Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,² To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.³ We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you,⁴ since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints,⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel,⁶ which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth,⁷ just as you learned it from Epaphras our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf⁸ and has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

From these verses we see that Paul's central focus is:

- The grace of God found in the Gospel of Christ.
- The Colossians newfound faith in Christ.
- The hope laid up in heaven.
- The word of truth and the Gospel.
- The Gospel which has come to all the world.
- The Gospel is bearing fruit and increasing in the world.

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NOTICE: the words, "The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" (v3) shine a brilliant floodlight on the truth that Paul never for a moment considered Jesus was God or that the Father was actually the Son.

- **Colossians 1:9-14:** And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,¹⁰ so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.¹¹ May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy,¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.¹³ He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

From these verses we see that Paul's central focus is:

- The Colossians love in the Spirit.
- The knowledge of God's will.
- Walking in a manner worthy of the Lord.
- Bearing fruit and living to please God.
- Increasing in the knowledge of God.
- Being strengthened by God's glorious might.

- Giving thanks to God the Father.
- The inheritance of the believers in the light and in truth.
- Deliverance from the domain of darkness, to the Kingdom of God's beloved Son.
- Christ in who we have redemption and forgiveness of Sin.

So far Paul's focus is still the Colossians newfound faith in Christ, through the Gospel that they have heard. This means that the following verses are in the context of this new found faith, the New Covenant of Grace and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Colossians 1:15-16:** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

The word image comes from the Greek word (eikon) and means a likeness, representation or resemblance. Paul is not saying or mystically implying that Jesus is God, if that was the case Paul would simply say so, rather he is explaining that Jesus is the image of God, meaning the perfect reflection of who God is.

Jesus while walking on earth perfectly manifested:

- God's power in the miracles and wonders he did.
- God's character and eternal plans, purposes and promises.
- God's grace, mercy, forgiveness and love.
- The eternal life that was with his heavenly Father before the foundations of the world, Jesus manifested this life in his resurrection and in his eternal body when he appeared to his disciples after his death and resurrection.

THE FIRSTBORN ALL CREATION

The words, "Jesus is the firstborn of all creation" can refer to the following two things:

1. Jesus being born of the new creation, the New Covenant, the body of Christ, the new race, the new and spiritual Temple of God which all refer to the church and the Kingdom of God that God is at this present time is building in Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles.
2. Jesus death and resurrection (i.e., he was the first to be born through the resurrection into God's heavenly and eternal world).

The focus is Christ's Kingdom it is the Kingdom of Christ that is the new creation that Jesus has created. Without Jesus the church, the body of Christ the Kingdom of God from Genesis to Revelation would not exist.

ALL THINGS VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE

The words "All things" in the context of this chapter refer all things needed for reconciliation with God and eternal salvation.

- All visible things apply to all things on earth created for his Kingdom.
- All invisible things apply to all spiritual things that have been created by Christ and for Christ in heaven and all things in the hearts and minds of the faithful on earth (i.e., Christ's love, forgiveness, mercy, grace, the gift of righteousness etc.). Christ has created an entirely new religious and spiritual world, because of Christ's love and obedience to

his heavenly Father the Kingdom of God was totally changed from one of law, sinful human priests and temples of brick and mortar to a Kingdom of one perfect High Priest and a spiritual temple being built world-wide in the hearts and minds of the faithful who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord through his life has created an entirely new way into God's Kingdom and an entirely new race made up of faithful Jews and Gentiles who by faith believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

THRONES, DOMINIONS, RULERS AND AUTHORITIES

In the book of Revelation, the angels are seen giving the Lord Jesus Christ honor and glory, and God Himself has given Jesus power over all things and exalted his name, above every name whether in heaven or on earth. This is what the words, "Thrones, dominions, rulers, authorities and all things were created through him and for him" refer to. It means God has given Jesus the authority over every power whether on earth or in heaven. From the beginning of time God planned in his eternal mind that all things whether in heaven or on earth would be subject to Christ and created for his glory.

The entire focus of this chapter is not the original creation of the physical world in Genesis, because there is no mention of physical things being created. The focus is upon the new spiritual world that God has begun to build in the Lord Jesus Christ made up of Jews and Gentiles alike. No other man in the entire history of the world has affected the human race as much as Jesus has. Jesus authority and rule is seen through the lives of those on earth that make him the King and Lord of their minds and hearts and of their daily lives. Added to this when he returns as King of kings and Lord of lords to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth all the authority, power and dominion God has given him will be fully manifest in all its majestic and royal glory.

Jesus is calling out a people for his purposes, he is creating from Jews and Gentiles a new race they are called a new creation, because prior to Jesus death and resurrection only those who held to Moses Law and adhered to Jewish holy days, feast and ceremonial customs could have such honor and privilege. The focus of this chapter is not upon the original creation of Genesis, but upon the following two things:

1. John the Baptist came to prepare people for a new spiritual world. Jesus death and resurrection not only totally destroyed the old religious world of Moses, abolished the need for human priests and destroyed the need for the Temple and the entire Levitical priesthood, but also robbed the prideful, hypocritical religious rulers (the Pharisees, Chief Priests and Scribes) of their power and control over those who were seeking God. Through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ a new way to God was introduced. Jesus made salvation available to Jews and Gentiles alike. He created a new spiritual world everything the Jews had known for over 4000 years changed because of Christ, he created an entirely new spiritual world of faith and grace.
2. The spiritual world Jesus created is not limited to the New Testament, but extends right back to the beginning of time since God's entire plan of salvation rests upon Christ. If Christ in the garden of Gethsemane had not spoken those famous words, "Not my will, but yours be done," God's eternal plan for mankind's eternal salvation would be left bankrupt.

JESUS IS BEFORE ALL THINGS

- **Colossians 1:17:** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Jesus is "Before all things" means he is pre-eminent in all things, he is the head of all things. It means he is above every authority in heaven and on earth. The "All things" applies to the new creation, the new spiritual world, the new Kingdom and the global body of Christ (the church) Jesus is creating, but also embraces the new world of eternity. Without Jesus not one of these would exist.

JESUS IS THE HEAD OF THE BODY

- **Colossians 1:18:** And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

The entire context of this chapter is Jesus and the new creation which came by Christ and for Christ there is no reference in this entire chapter to the original creation in Genesis. The focus is the global church, the body of Christ with Jesus as the head and the firstborn (resurrected) from the dead. The new creation of Christ refers to the following three things:

- 1 The global church (also called the body of Christ) and the spiritual Kingdom of God existing now on earth.
- 2 The literal new world of righteousness, justice, joy and peace to be established on earth when Christ returns as King of kings and Lord of lords.
- 3 The world of eternity to come at the end of Christ's millennial reign as King of kings and Lord of lords when God himself descends to earth and eternity in all its glorious majestic and royal fullness begins.

These are the things in focus when Paul said, "By him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible (v16). Without Christ none of these would exist.

THE FULLNESS OF GOD DWELLS IN CHRIST

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

The words, "For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell" does not mean that Jesus is God, but that God's Spirit dwelt in him without limitation. John the Baptist said of Jesus:

- **John 3:34-35:** For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure.³⁵ The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.

This means that God gave Jesus His Spirit without any limitation or restraint. This is why Jesus was able to heal everyone who came to him regardless of whether their sickness was physical or mental, a virus or a disease and why he was able to create fish from nothing and calm the storm by a spoken word in contrast to the prophets of the Old Testament and apostles of the New Testament having a limited measure of God's Spirit and in contrast to every brother and sister in Christ even today having a limited portion of God's Spirit (also called the Holy Spirit) dwelling within them. The following verses show that God is able to take a portion of His Spirit from one person and place it onto others:

- **Numbers 11:24-26:** So Moses went out and told the people the words of the LORD. And he gathered seventy men of the elders of the people and placed them around the tent.²⁵ Then the LORD came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.²⁶ Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp.

These verses clearly show that God is able to pour out His Spirit in varying portions on whoever he chooses. The heavenly and glorious words, "Through Christ God is reconciling to himself all things making peace by the blood of his cross," (v20) shows us the following two things:

1. That it is God's desire that mankind would be saved.
2. Why God was so thrilled with His Son.

If Jesus had not been prepared at the Garden of Gethsemane to say those famous words, "Father not my will but yours be done" (knowing in that moment he was surrendering his life to brutal bloody and a cruel death) God's eternal plan of salvation would have failed. Is it any wonder God has exalted Christ above all principalities, authorities, dominions and powers and why Christians make the Lord the most treasured possession of their hearts and minds.

GENTILES WERE ALIENATED AND HOSTILE IN MIND TO GOD

- **Colossians 1:21-23:** And you (Gentiles), who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

The mind of all mankind is carnal (dominated by self, ego, pride, greed and lust etc.,) and as such is against God and therefore alienated from Him which is manifested in the teaching and theory of evolution and corrupt works throughout all nations, but this alienation is spoken particularly of the Gentiles because the Jews were at least by profession dedicated to the true God while the Gentiles were given up to denying God altogether or to the worship of other gods or other spiritual teachings which they dedicated themselves, their minds and their religious and spiritual service to.

NOTICE: this alienation is seated in the mind and leads to a lifestyle contrary to the will of God. It is not the result of a fleeting passion or excitement, but has a much deeper seat that takes hold of the intellectual powers of the mind which renders reconciliation with God difficult. This alienation is a result of SIN (empowered by self, ego, pride, lust and greed etc.,) it has corrupted the moral and intellectual powers of the mind and thereby set the whole of mankind against their Creator, but despite this God through Christ has brought harmony, love and friendship between Gentiles and Himself. It should be noted that all this change is on the part of man and not God since it is us who have to lay aside our hostility toward God and not God toward us since His whole desire is to reconcile us to Himself so much so that Jesus himself said, "God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

THE MYSTERY HIDDEN FOR AGES AND GENERATIONS BUT NOW REVEALED

- **Colossians 1:23-26:** if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. ²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.

The context of the entire chapter is still the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the creation of the church and authorities and rulers of which Jesus is the head. Paul continues in his calling suffers greatly for this new creation called the church in which Christ is all and in all. Paul says, he is suffering for the bodies sake, his focus is the church and those who belong to Jesus,

these are the things that are in his mind when writing this letter, he is not thinking of the decaying creation of Genesis, but the new creation of the New Testament which is the global body of Christ called the church. In these final verses of the chapter Paul's focus is still the church of which he is made a minister

THE MYSTERY THAT WAS HIDDEN IN AGES PAST

The mystery that was hidden in ages past is the glorious truth that Gentiles would become fellow heirs with the Jews in the eternal promises made to Abraham and Israel. At the time of Christ, the Jews (especially those in religious authority) believed they were the chosen race with God and the Gentiles were an unclean race without God.

CONCLUSION: this entire chapter is about the eternal body of Christ the new creation called the church and has nothing to do with the decaying creation of Genesis.

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