

**To Whom Shall We Go?
“Christ-The Believer’s Assurance”**

Introduction: The John 6 text- the teaching of Jesus was hard.

- ✓ Posed the question-“Will you also go away?”
- ✓ To whom shall we go, for Thou hast the words of eternal life
- ✓ What you believe about Jesus really does matter
- ✓ Yet talk of Jesus today is politically incorrect

Leonard Stewart-“We have a Jesus Deficit Disorder”

NOTE: The question of Jesus at Caesarea Philippi was “who do you say that I am” (not tongues, accountability)

- ✓ Great text of Colossians 1:15-20

Christ-the Believer’s Example (Image of Invisible God and Firstborn Over All Creation)

Today-Christ-The Believer’s Assurance

I. By Him all Things were Created

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. Colossians 1:16 NKJV

NOTE: *Christ is prior to all creation and as the firstborn; He is heir to it all as well. But here—“In Him, all things are created.”*

- A. The great act of Christ’s redemption is earlier described (1:12-14)

Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:12-14 NKJV

- B. Now Paul seems to indicate that His redemptive act was motivated by the fact that He first created us.

(ILL) Little Boat Twice Owned

E.F. Bruce-

“So then, the one through whom the divine work of redemption has been accomplished is the one through whom the divine act of creation took place in the beginning...For those who have been redeemed by Christ, the universe has no ultimate terrors; they know that their redeemer is also creator, ruler, and goal of all.”

This is the sense of Jeremiah 5:22

Do you not fear Me?’ says the LORD. ‘Will you not tremble at My presence, Who have placed the sand as the bound of the sea, By a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass beyond it? And though its waves toss to and fro, Yet they cannot prevail; Though they roar, yet they cannot pass over it. Jeremiah 5:22 NKJV

C. Practical Implications

1. Though real and certainly a formidable adversary, Satan and his forces, cannot overcome the child of God.

Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. Colossians 2:15 NKJV

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. 1 John 4:4 NKJV

2. Circumstances and situations may affect but not thwart the outworking of God’s plan for our lives.

No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me,” Says the LORD. Isaiah 54:17 NKJV

3. Ultimately, even the affronts and attacks of the evil one to dissuade us will work for our good

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28 NKJV

(ILL) Joseph-what you meant for evil

NOTE: *Colossians were worried about principalities but even they owe their existence to Christ, the Christian Savior*

D. High exaltation of Christ

NOTE: *v. 16*

- ✓ “By Him all things were created”-all the Father’s counsels and activities, even creation is centered in the Son.
- ✓ “Through Him”-He is the divine agent of creation (John 1:3)
- ✓ “For Him”-He is the goal to which they all tend

For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. Romans 11:36 NKJV

Yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live. 1 Corinthians 8:6 NKJV

NOTE: God’s purpose has from the foundation of the earth been wrapped up in Christ

That in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth — in Him. Ephesians 1:10 NKJV

Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. 27 For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. 28 Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all. 1 Corinthians 15:24-28 NKJV

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:9-11 NKJV

Practical

Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." Acts 4:12 NKJV

II. He is Before all Things and in Him all Things Consist

And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. NKJV Colossians 1:17

A. He is before all things

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1 NKJV

But before that, the divine Word already exists

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1:1 NKJV

Arius-“There was once when He was not.” HERESY

B. And in Him, all things consisted

NOTE: *What He brings into being He maintains*

Has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, Hebrews 1:2-3 NKJV

NOTE ALSO: *consist-“cohere”-all things hold together*

1. Sustainer of the universe-unifying presence
2. Laws of gravity-all because of Christ

Conclusion:

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. Colossians 1:15-18 NKJV

High Christology, but also very personal.

Such Comfort:

Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; Philippians 1:6-7 NKJV

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 3:18 NKJV

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23 NKJV

For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day. 2 Timothy 1:12 NKJV

"Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 28 "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. Matthew 6:25-33 NKJV

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