

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for April 12-13, 2003

Gerry Andersen

"The Person of Christ"

Colossians 1:13-18

1. Christ's relation to us (1:13-14)

a. Jesus is our King (1:13)

b. Jesus is our Redeemer (1:14)

2. Christ's relation to God (1:13, 15)

Note the present tense (cf. John 8:58)

a. Jesus is the beloved Son of God (1:13)

b. Jesus is the perfect likeness of God

"Image" (Eikon) is not a resemblance but is an exact representation (cf. Hebrews 1:3; John 14:9).

3. Christ's relation to Creation (1:15-17)

a. Jesus is preeminent over all things (1:15)

"Firstborn" (Prototokos) can mean the first of a series or it can mean preeminent in rank (cf. Exodus 4:22; Psalm 89:27; Jeremiah 31:9; Revelation 1:5).

The translation bias of Colossians 1:16-17 in the New World Translation:

"Because by means of him all [other] things were created in the heavens and upon the earth. ... All [other] things have been created through him and for him. Also he is before all [other] things and by means of him all [other] things were made to exist."

In this case, first-born must mean "preeminent" because:

1) The context teaches Christ's exalted place.

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- 2) He is the first-born of all creation, not in creation.
- 3) Psalm 89:27 uses "first-born" in a sense of preeminent referring to the Messiah.
- 4) Christ cannot be both created and the Creator of everything. Nothing can create itself.
- 5) Christ cannot be the only-begotten if He were the first-begotten of many.

b. Jesus produced all things (1:16)

Jesus is the Creator of everything, either directly or indirectly.

c. Jesus preceded all things (1:17)

The pronoun "He" is emphatic.

d. Jesus preserves of all things (1:17)

4. Christ's relation to the church (1:18)

a. Jesus is our leader

The pronoun "He" is emphatic.

b. Jesus is our life

c. Jesus is our Lord

It is imperative that we realize who Christ is so that we may respond to Him accordingly.