

# Colossians 1:11-29 - Who is Christ

Col 1:11-12 ESV 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

## He is pointing us to a future

### **God has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light**

- An inheritance is a “lot, or a share”
  - Think of a piece of land - children of Israel went to the promised land and each tribe received an inheritance or a “lot” or a “share”

## AND he’s praying for **ALL power for ALL endurance and patience with joy...**

### **Endurance sounds like hardships, suffering, affliction and persecution to go through**

- Act 14:21-22 NIV They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch, (22) strengthening the disciples and ***encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God."*** they said.
- Jas 5:11 NIV As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of ***Job's perseverance [endurance]*** and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

### **The SUPERLATIVES *All Power & All Endurance* reveals the strength of the trial**

#### **ALL DUNAMIS according to his mighty KRATOS - power, force, dominion [dominate]**

- Eph 1:19-20 he calls it an ***“incomparably great power”*** - ***the same power*** exerted when raising Christ from the dead (resurrection power)
  - This conquering power filled - permeated - or energized every dead cell of Jesus’ lifeless body until [as the scripture says] it was impossible that death could hold Him
- Eph 6:10 be strong in the Lord and power of his **might** - armor of God

### **This Power enables JOY even when we must endure**

- Acts 13:50-52 disciples filled with **joy** after having been **persecuted**
- Jas 1:2 - Count it all joy when trials come your way

## We are under a different ruler in a different kingdom

### **Delivered from the domain of darkness and Transferred unto the kingdom of his dear son**

- **Darkness is Satan’s world**
  - Act 26:18 ESV **to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness** to light and from the **power** of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'
  - Eph 5:8 ESV for at one time you were **darkness**, but **now** you are **light** in the Lord. Walk as children of light
- **DELIVERED** --- --- to come and rush us away [2 Pet 2:7 he delivered LOT from Sodom and Gomorrah] the idea is that we are in a dark cave - unable to see, unable to move --- --- we needed someone who knew where we were and was willing to come and pull us out

- **TRANSFERRED** -The word is used when a *conquering king* would *displace people who have been conquered* - like the EXILE
- We have been moved to the dominion of the son He loves - We are placed under the rule and dominion of a loving LORD

## Who is Christ?

Col 1:13-19 , (14) in whom we have **redemption**, the **forgiveness** of sins. (15) 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. (17) And he is **before** all things, and in him all things **hold together**. (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**. (19) For in him all the **fullness** of God was pleased to dwell,

## 1) CHRIST IS OUR REDEEMER

### **REDEMPTION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS - [east and west - I remember their sins no more]**

- **Redemption is experienced in the present**
  - Ephesians 1:7: "In whom we have **redemption** through his **blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace"
- **REDEMPTION it is also a future fulfillment as it includes a resurrected body**
  - Rom 8:23 ESV And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly **as we wait eagerly** for adoption as sons, **the redemption of our bodies**.
- **WE ARE SEALED unto the day of redemption**
  - Ephesians 4:30: "whereby ye are **sealed unto the day of redemption**."

### **The Story of Jeremiah's field...sealed in jar clay - until the day of redemption.**

To finalize the land purchase, two "purchase deeds" were written up: an open one and a sealed one (32:10-14). The deeds were identical, but, in case of a dispute, the sealed one was the one that was binding. The sealed deed was put in a safe place so it could be opened if there was a problem. Probably, the transaction information, including the price of the sale, a description of the field being sold, and the identity of the buyer and seller were recorded on the document, which was papyrus. One deed was rolled up and tied with a string. A lump of clay was then placed on the string, and an impression was made with a seal that contained the owner's name and possibly his title. This clay impression is known as a bulla (plural bullae). Although it is not stated in the text, the witnesses to the transaction might have added their bullae as well

- Just as the field was bought - we have been bought with the blood of Christ
- Just as the purchase deed was sealed - we have been sealed until the redemption of the purchased possession

Ephesians 1:14: "the Holy Spirit is the earnest of our inheritance **until the redemption of the purchased possession**"

## 2) CHRIST IS GOD & CREATOR

Col 1:15 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. 17 And he is **before** all things, and in him **all things hold together**.

### He is the image of the invisible God

- Joh 14:9 if you have seen me you have seen the Father
- Heb 1:3 - 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and ***the exact imprint of his nature***

### The firstborn of all creation - for by Him were all things created

- Jesus CANNOT be both a CREATED BEING and CREATOR of ALL things at the same time --- some cults see Jesus as a created being because of this scripture
- Firstborn can literally mean first born child ...But it can also mean something different

**There are 3 people in the bible called firstborn - that are NOT first born literally** - In these cases FIRSTBORN is a title of preeminence or God's choice and NOT a Literal Birth Order

- **David was lastborn** - yet firstborn in terms of HIGHEST KING
  - Psa 89:20 & 27 I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him.....And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.
- **Ephraim was second-born** after Manasseh - yet FIRSTBORN in choice of inheritance - Israel crossed hands and gave him the blessing of the firstborn
  - Jer 31:9 .... and **Ephraim is my firstborn son**. (see Gen 48:13-14)
- **Israel was second-born after Esau** - yet he was first-born as God's chosen for line of Messiah
  - Exo 4:22 .... 'This is what the LORD says: **Israel is my firstborn son**

**David was firstborn - the highest of the kings of the earth**

**Jesus - is firstborn with respect to all creation [i.e. chiefest, the choice, the greatest, the chosen one] - BECAUSE HE ACTUALLY CREATED EVERYTHING --- he is the chief, greatest and ONLY creator [ALL Things were made BY him and FOR him**

### For By Him all things were created, He is before all things, In Him all things hold together

- Joh 1:1-3 ESV In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- Heb 1:1-3 ESV Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds ***the holds everything together*** the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high
  - HE CREATED ALL AND HOLDS THE WORLD TOGETHER - why don't atom collapse or blow apart - "the Colossian Force?"

### **He is the Head of the Church**

Col 1:18 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**. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

- He is the head of the body - the church - HE IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH
- He is the beginning the firstborn from the dead [HE IS PREEMINENT IN EVERYTHING]
- In Him is all the fulness of God - we will soon look at what this means to the church

### **WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?**

WE NEED TO KNOW WHO IT IS THAT QUALIFIED US FOR THE FUTURE INHERITANCE

WE NEED TO KNOW WHO IT IS THAT WE PRAY TO FOR ENDURANCE

WE NEED TO KNOW WHOSE GLORIOUS POWER ARE WE ASKING FOR - AND HOW POWERFUL IS IT?

HE IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH - Our relationship to Christ [THE HEAD] should affect all that we do

Paul goes to great lengths to show the preeminence, the power and the perfection of Christ...KNOWING him is the essence of growing in the Christian faith...[walking worthy, fully pleasing and bearing fruit]

- Col 1:10 ESV 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**.

More on this next time.