

One Lord Jesus Christ - Colossians 1:13-20
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

We believe...
in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father.

We probably don't pause to think about how crazy the early Christian beliefs were in the Roman Empire or among the Jews. A Jewish Galilean peasant lived for the most part, a normal Jewish life under the oppressive authority of Rome. Then, as a young man he became an itinerant preacher and miracle worker, making the claim to be Israel's promised anointed king, a sentiment echoed by many of his followers. But His ministry got him sideways with the authorities in Jerusalem, who conspired to have Jesus crucified. Now, pause here. This story was actually repeated several times, would be messiah's who were rejected by Jerusalem and crushed by Rome, nothing new here. But the Jesus story has a twist, three days after his death Jesus walks out of the grave defeating death. The Christians begin proclaiming the resurrection of Jesus as the hope for the world, declaring Him to be the Savior we all need. He is not just a Jewish Messiah, instead they begin to worship Jesus as Lord and God, and they sacrifice everything, even their own lives to take this message to every person and every corner of the earth.

So at the center of our faith is this man, and the call is to worship Jesus as "very God of very God." It is at this point we need to make sure there is clarity. The Romans believed in a myriad of gods, and even the idea of men ascending to become divine. They believed their Emperor was a god. So if the early church declared that Jesus was the Jewish god to be added to the pantheon, there wouldn't have been much of a problem. But their idea of God flowed from the Jewish Scriptures (the Old Testament) with the radical monotheism and the 1st & 2nd Commandments condemning the recognition and worship of any other god and the creation and making of any sort of idol. There is one LORD, His name is Yahweh. He is the One who revealed Himself to Abraham. He is the One who rescued Moses and the Jews from slavery at the hand of Pharaoh and Egypt. He is the One who made David the great king of God's Kingdom and promised a future King.

So pause now and think how crazy it was for a group of people to look at a man who lived in history and declare Him to be this God, and worship Him as divine. Immediately those who held to an absolute monotheism had a problem, meanwhile the Christians affirmed that radical monotheism, yet at the same time claimed Jesus to be that God. But it was even more complex. At the same time they also affirmed the distinction between Jesus the Son and God the Father. So how could both be God and there remain only One True God? Still, we must affirm that this is exactly what the whole story of the Bible confirms. Our passage in Colossians is one of the beautiful passages affirming the deity of this amazing man who lived in history. But it is not even close to the only one.

In the early 300's Arias sat under the preaching of Alexander, Bishop of Alexandria. He preached on Jesus as the only begotten Son (from John's Gospel). Arias heard that and began declaring that if Jesus was begotten it had to happen in time. His goal was to protect the monotheism of the Scriptures, but in doing so he began to declare that Jesus

was a created being, stating that “there was a time when He was not.” For many, Arias’s ideas made sense, so they spread. Others, though, pushed back, going so far as to declare Arianism a heresy. This was the central question at the Council of Nicaea. There they looked to the Scriptures and couldn’t get away from a few clear truths. First, there is one God. Second, God is both Father and Son, and Father and Son are distinct. Third, along with the Father, Jesus the Son, the man who lived in history was and is God, or as they declared, God of God, light of light, very (or true) God of very God. To deny the deity of Jesus is to lose the Gospel, to lose Christianity, and ultimately to lose the One who delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom.

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Exodus 37	Exodus 38	Exodus 39	Exodus 40	Romans 1	Romans 2	Romans 3

Reading from this past week’s sermon: Colossians 1:13-20

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Philippians 2:5-11

Family Worship

Song - *Everything and More*

https://youtu.be/TRiH5_N5aI8?si=hRSZJ_0Kru6aR99k

Gospel Project

Unit: The Northern Kingdom

Story: Elisha the Prophet

Big Picture Question: Why do Christians continue to sin?

Answer: Christians continue to sin because we still have a sin nature, but when Jesus returns, He will make us sinless like Him.

Scripture: 2 Kings 2, 4-5

New City Catechism

Question 41: What is the Lord’s Prayer?

Answer: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Verse: Matthew 6:9

Colossians 1:13-20

- Can we really claim that a man who lived in history is true God? Why must we believe this to embrace Christianity?
- Why must we realize that there are doctrines and beliefs in Christianity that can be believed yet not fully understood?
- Why do we need to remember during our study of the Nicene Creed that the foundation for Christian beliefs comes from Judaism and not Roman culture and religions? What are the implications when we speak of our doctrine of Jesus?
- What phrases and words does Paul use in our text this week to demonstrate the divinity of Jesus?

Prayer

*Pray that we would know and worship Jesus as Lord and God.

*Pray for our bonfire this weekend.