

“IT IS ALL ABOUT CHRIST”

A CHRISTMAS SERIES

TEXT: COLOSSIANS 1:12-19

PART ONE

“THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF CHRIST BEFORE HIS INCARNATION”

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INTRO: As we approach Christmas it is so easy to get “caught-up” in the COMMERCIAL FESTIVITY of the season and therefore DILUTE the REAL POINT OF EMPHASIS of this time of year. **CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT CHRIST, AND NOTHING ELSE AT ALL!** It is NOT about church...IT IS ALL ABOUT CHRIST. It is NOT about family...IT IS ALL ABOUT CHRIST. It is NOT about gifts...IT IS ALL ABOUT CHRIST. It is NOT about parties...IT IS ALL ABOUT CHRIST. **There is no doubt that all Christians would agree to that in THEORY, but how many of us agree to that in practice?** This morning we will begin a series that I pray will transfer our THEORY into PRACTICE that will TRULY HONOR THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

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PURPOSE OF SERIES: TO SHOW THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST SO THAT CHRISTMAS WILL BE FULLY A TIME TO EXALT HIM AND HIM ALONE.

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TEXT FOR THE SERIES: COLOSSIANS 1:12-19

OBSERVATION OF THE TEXT: This is a treatise of the fact that, NOT ONLY AT CHRISTMAS, but throughout ETERNITY, and in every situation, in every era, in every time, in every day, in every hour, in every minute, in every second, in every moment, in every nation, in every organization, in every church and in every person, JESUS CHRIST AND JESUS CHRIST ALONE IS TO BE EXALTED!

OBSERVE WHAT THE TEXT TEACHES ABOUT CHRIST:

- 1) Christ is the Image of the Invisible God – Vs. 15a: He is Totally God.
- 2) Christ is the Firstborn of Every Creature – Vs. 15b: He is the Highest Ranked Person in the entire universe!
- 3) Christ is the Creator of All Things – Vs. 16: He is the Originator of the Universe.
- 4) Christ is Before All Things – Vs. 17a: He ALREADY existed when the Universe had its beginning.
- 5) Christ is the One by whom All things Consist – Vs. 17b: He holds all things together. Christ sustains the universe and maintains the power and balance necessary to all existence and continuity.
- 6) Christ is the Head of the Body – Vs. 18a: He controls the Church, as the brain controls every part of the physical body, and thus He gives the Church all of its LIFE and DIRECTION.
- 7) Christ is the Beginning – Vs. 18b: He Originated the Church.
- 8) Christ is the Firstborn from the Dead – Vs. 18c: He the is supreme over all who will ever be raised from the dead.
- 9) Christ is the One to Have Preeminence – Vs. 18d: He is NUMBER ONE and to be exalted in all things.
- 10) Christ is the One in whom all Fullness Dwells – Vs. 19: He possesses all of the DIVINE POWER AND ATTRIBUTES OF GOD because He is FULLY GOD!

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TO DENY CHRIST THE PREEMINENCE IN ALL THINGS IS NOTHING LESS THAN COMPLETE BLASPHEMY!

THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF CHRIST BEFORE HIS INCARNATION

IN LOOKING AT THE MANGER:

We must look FURTHER than the Road from Galilee to Bethlehem.

We must look DEEPER than the Hay in the Stable.

We must look BEYOND Limited Humanity to Eternal Deity.

We must look PAST Weakened Infancy to Almighty Divinity.

WE MUST LOOK AT JESUS CHRIST, THE ETERNAL GOD, THE KING OF KINGS AND THE LORD OF LORDS TO WHOM ALL GODS, ALL RELIGIONS, ALL NATIONS, AND ALL PEOPLE WILL BOW FOR ALL ETERNITY!

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I. THE REALITY OF THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF CHRIST

DID CHRIST REALLY EXIST BEFORE HIS INCARNATION? YES!

NOTE: The very word “INCARNATION” indicates that Christ existed before His birth. “INCARNATION” means to “APPEAR IN HUMAN FORM.” Without the Pre-existence of Christ there would be NO incarnation of Christ.

A. The Teaching of John 1:1-4, 14

-The “Word” (Christ) existed from the beginning, with God, as God, Who made all things, gave life to all things and took on the form of Humanity.

B. The Teaching of John 8:53-59

-In Exodus while speaking to Moses, God declared Himself to be eternally Pre-existent when He said "I AM THAT I AM." In John 8:57, 58 Christ, as God, is declaring the same. The phrase "I AM" implies ETERNAL EXISTENCE!

C. The Teaching of John 17:5, 24

-Before the world ever existed, Christ existed in the fullness of the Glory as God!

ILLUSTRATION:

II. THE REVELATION OF THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF CHRIST

WAS CHRIST REVEALED BEFORE HIS INCARNATION? YES!

A. The Teaching of Micah 5:2

-Christ existed in eternity past and will exist in eternity future as King!

B. The Teaching of Genesis 2:4; Psalm 2:7

-The word "LORD" is translated from the Hebrew "YAWEH" which is "JEHOVAH" that speaks of Christ in the Old Testament. Every time you see "LORD" in the O.T. it is the Pre-existent Christ. (Note Genesis 18:1)

ILLUSTRATION:

III. THE RESPONSE TO THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF CHRIST

SHOULD THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF CHRIST EFFECT US NOW? YES!

HOW?

A. Do NOT Doubt It – Doing so would indicate you are not a biblical Christian.

B. Do NOT Dismiss It – Doing so would indicate a total lack of respect for Who Christ really is.

C. Do NOT Deny It – Doing so would indicate you do not submit to the authority of the scripture.

THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF CHRIST SHOWS HE IS THE ETERNAL GOD WHO DESERVES ALL OF OUR HONOR, PRAISE, SERVICE AND WORSHIP. ALL TRUE CHRISTIANS WILL RESPOND TO HIM ACCORDINGLY AND WILL PROMOTE HIM, GLORIFY HIM, SERVE HIM AND OBEY HIM. ALL OF LIFE AND ETERNITY IS ABOUT JESUS CHRIST!

ILLUSTRATION:

LESSON: *ANYTHING THAT IS NOT ABOUT CHRIST IS SIN! WHAT IS YOUR LIFE ABOUT?*