

Why Would You Desire Anything Else?

“Colossians: Together for Christ”

Colossians 1:16-17

May 13, 2018

BIG IDEA

There are many people and things that we desire in life. None, though, is more valuable than Jesus. Within Paul’s argument against the false teaching regarding the worship of angels, we’ll get a dramatic glimpse regarding the preeminence of Christ. We’ll grapple with the question: Why would we desire anything other than a deeper relationship with Jesus?

THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE

Context:

False teachers were propagating what is generally referred to as the *Colossian Heresy*. Though there is some disagreement regarding the nature of this teaching, it is likely that there was an element of Jewish mysticism that included the worship of angels. Paul’s argument is a direct refutation of this teaching. Jesus is not subordinate to, or equal to, angels. He created them!

Colossians 1:16-17

¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

MAIN IDEA

Paul’s description of the Lord is breathtaking. It is clear that he wanted his readers to contemplate the majesty of Christ and that he is all-in-all. He is God. Others, however, were trying to dissuade the Colossians. This is why he needed to confront his readers with truth.

Paul offered several reasons why the Lord should be the object of our affections:

1. Jesus is Creator and the Source of All Things

Colossians 1:16 - 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.

Christ is the direct cause of all creation. The term “heaven and earth” denotes the entire universe. The vast size and unsearchable riches of this largely undiscovered world can lead us to a place of awe. Jesus is the source and creator of everything.

a. Read John 1:1-3.

John 1:1-3 - 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.

Do you think of Jesus as Creator? How does an understanding of this aspect of Jesus change how you feel about him?

b. Is it hard to grasp the fact that Jesus not only created all things but still loves you? Do you believe that? Why or why not?

2. Jesus Created Principalities and Powers

Colossians 1:16b - ... visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities...

The “invisible” is the world of spirits. “Thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities” likely denotes a demonic hierarchy. Paul again is emphasizing the fact that Christ created angels. Jesus is not an angel. He is not a created being. He created these beings.



a. Read Ephesians 1:21 and 1 Peter 3:22.

Ephesians 1:21 – ...far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

1 Peter 3:22 – ...who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

These passages explicitly speak of the Lord's reign as King. All entities are under his authority, even evil spirits. What does this truth tell you about your ability to have victory in your life?

b. What do you know about angels? Psalm 103:20 will give you some clues.

Psalm 103:20 – Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word!

c. Is there an angel watching over you? Can you find scripture to support your belief?

3. Jesus is the Goal of Creation

Colossians 1:16c – ...all things were created through him and for him.

The "goal of creation" simply means that all of the Lord's handiwork is meant to bring him honor and praise. Again, Paul's hypothesis is that Jesus is not an angel. He is God. Only God could enjoy the glory of creation. Every time we marvel at the sky, our lakes, or our lush farmland, we can thank Jesus. We can glory in Jesus. The Lord can become the object of our affections.



- a. **Think of one of the most beautiful places you've ever seen. Pastor Paul's example is Lake Louise, near Banff, Alberta. Can you pause a moment and think of that beauty and how much more beautiful the Creator is?**

- b. **Everything that has been made is meant to glorify Jesus. That includes you. You are specially made by God. Take joy in that thought today!**

4. Jesus is Existent Before Creation

Colossians 1:17 – And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

When the universe began, Jesus already existed in the fullness of his deity. Paul's audience would've understood that the only eternal being is God. Thus, here again is the claim of deity in the face of false teaching.

- a. **Jesus is God. Talk about how the divinity of Christ affects your relationship with him.**

- b. **Is there someone that you can tell about Jesus? They need to hear the good news of this marvelous Person!**

5. Jesus is Sustainer of Creation

Colossians 1:17b – ...and in him all things hold together.

The universe and its delicate balance would literally blow apart but for the sustaining work of Christ. To explore the universe is to explore a series of working parts that Jesus alone is capable of sustaining.



- a. **Take a moment and pray and thank Jesus for his sustaining love and power.**

- b. **This truth can change your life. It can provoke a sense of awe, gratitude, and a sense of security and purpose. It can also provoke a passion to spread the gospel. Jesus is amazing. Why would you desire anything else?**

PRAY

Jesus, thank you for being who you are. You are a wonderful creator. You sustain all things. You are God. I believe in you. I desire to serve you for the rest of my life. Please use me as you will. Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- [*The Case for a Creator*](#) – a book from Lee Strobel (Zondervan)
- [*Angels: God's Secret Agents*](#) – a book from Billy Graham (Thomas Nelson)

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

Jesus is Head of the Church and Reconciler – Colossians 1:18-23

