

Discussion and Reflection Questions

Kaleidoscope of Grace - Week 5

Read: Colossians 1:15-29

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; ¹⁶for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— ²³provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

²⁴ I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. ²⁵I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹For this I toil and struggle with all the energy that he powerfully inspires within me.

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. 'Religious syncretism' is the the fusion of diverse religious beliefs & practices & this was an issue in Collossae that Paul was addressing. Do you see religious syncretism in our culture? What is good about religious syncretism? Are there any dangers in religious syncretism?
2. Paul encourages the Colossians that they don't need to seek out other ideas, that all is well, that Christ is sufficient & that they are right where they need to be. Would you find that encouraging in today's world? How do you find encouragement from Jesus?

3. v15-21 is called by Biblical Scholars “The Christ Hymn” with lots of big ideas about Jesus. Which ideas do you relate to & which do you find challenging?
4. Do you find it helpful or challenging to wrestle with big ideas about God & Jesus?
5. Paul says it’s Christ in us that is the hope of glory. What aspects of Jesus do you find hardest to bring to life in your own life?
6. Paul always prays for the “grace of Jesus” to be with the people he writes to. If it’s the grace of Jesus in us that is the hope of glory, how might we approach friends, family & strangers differently?
7. How can a lack of grace from Christians become a barrier to non-Christians?

Prayer

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of us. Amen.