

**“WHY SHOULD JESUS HAVE FIRST
PLACE IN YOUR LIFE?”
(THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST)
COLOSSIANS 1:13-23**

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(THIS DENIES UNIVERSALISM/DEISM/
FATALISM)**
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INTRODUCTION

AMERICANS AGAIN ARE INTERESTED IN THE SPIRITUAL. THAT INTEREST IS PERHAPS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH AS WE TURN THE CORNER AND ENTER A NEW CENTURY. 82% OF AMERICANS BELIEVE IN LIFE AFTER DEATH, UP FROM 77% IN 1973. 88% OF THE RESPONDENTS TO A FOX NEWS/OPINION DYNAMICS SURVEY BELIEVE HEAVEN IS A REAL PLACE. INTERESTINGLY, ONLY 71% BELIEVE IN A LITERAL HELL (*ONE NATION, UNDER GOD* BY RICHARD MORIN). FORMER PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON DREW UPON BIBLICAL IMAGES AND SPOKE OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A **“NEW COVENANT.”** PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH TOUTS HIS VISION OF **“FAITH BASED INITIATIVES”** AND THE IMPORTANT ROLE RELIGION CAN PLAY IN OUR SOCIETY.

YES, AMERICANS ARE INTERESTED IN THE SPIRITUAL, AND IN THAT CONTEXT IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT INTEREST IN JESUS CHRIST, THE MAN FROM NAZARETH, IS OFF THE CHARTS.

FOR EXAMPLE:

JAMA

MAR-21-86

“ON THE PHYSICAL DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST”

TIME AUG-13-88

“WHO WAS JESUS?”

US NEWS & WORLD REPORT DEC-20-93

“WHO WAS JESUS?”

NEWSWEEK APRIL-4-94

“THE DEATH OF JESUS”

LIFE DEC-94

“WHO WAS JESUS?”

USA TODAY FEB-23-99

“JESUS INSPIRES DIVERGENT VISIONS”

NEWSWEEK MAR-29-99

“2,000 YEARS OF JESUS”

NEWSWEEK MAR-27-00

“VISIONS OF JESUS” (HOW JEWS,
MUSLIMS AND BUDDHISTS VIEW HIM)

US NEWS & WORLD REPORT APRIL-24-00

“WHY JESUS WAS KILLED”

ABC TELEVISION JUNE-26-00

“PETER JENNINGS REPORTING: THE SEARCH
FOR JESUS”

MISSIONS RESEARCHER DAVID BARRETT
REPORTED IN 1997 THAT WORLDWIDE, OVER
65, 571 BOOKS HAD BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT
JESUS. (*BAPTIST TODAY*, 7-24-97).

YES, PEOPLE ARE STILL CAPTIVATED BY THE
MAN FROM GALILEE. HOWEVER, IF WE CUT
THROUGH ALL THE POPULAR RHETORIC AND
PUSH OUR WAY THROUGH THE MEDIA HYPE

AND FOG, IT WILL BECOME PAINFULLY CLEAR THAT IN TOO MANY INSTANCES WE ARE EITHER:

- 1) LOOKING FOR JESUS IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES, OR
- 2) EXPLAINING JESUS IN ALL THE WRONG WAYS.

JON MURRAY, FORMER PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN ATHEISTS (DECEASED) MAY SAY, “THERE WAS NO SUCH PERSON IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD AS JESUS CHRIST.”

ROBERT FUNK OF THE INFAMOUS “JESUS SEMINAR,” MAY ARGUE, “JESUS WAS A SUBVERSIVE SAGE.”

ISLAM MAY SEE HIM AS GOD’S GREATEST PROPHET AFTER MOHAMMED AND DENY HIS CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION.

SUSAN HASKINS MAY SAY, “HE WAS A FEMINIST” AND BARBARA THIERING, OUT OF HER FANCIFUL IMAGINATION, MAY TELL US, “IT’S IN THE SCROLLS IF YOU REALLY STUDY THE CODES: IT WAS NOT A RESURRECTION. HE WAS PUT ON THE CROSS . . . HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS BUT NOT DEAD . . . THEY PUT HIM IN THE CAVE. HE LIVED UNTIL HIS 70’S . . . HE MARRIED MARY MAGDALENE AND HAD 4 CHILDREN.”

- THESE AND MANY OTHERS MAY SPOUT THEIR OPINIONS AND SHARE THEIR THEORIES BUT WHEN EVERYTHING IS SAID AND DONE, ONE QUESTION STILL REMAINS: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT JESUS?

- NOTE THE 4 GREAT CHRISTOLOGICAL TEXTS:

- 1) JOHN 1:1-18 JESUS IS THE GOD OF THE *INCARNATION.*
- 2) PHIL. 2:6-11 JESUS IS THE GOD OF *HUMILIATION.*
- 3) HEB. 1:1-3 JESUS IS THE GOD OF *REVELATION.*
- 4) COL. 1:13-23 JESUS IS THE GOD OF *CREATION.*

- COLOSSIANS, LIKE PHILIPPIANS, IS INTERESTED IN CHRIST'S LORDSHIP AND IT HELPS US ANSWER THE QUESTION: "WHY SHOULD JESUS HAVE 1ST PLACE IN MY LIFE?"

FOUR REASONS ARE GIVEN. FOUR REASONS THAT FORCE US TO CONFRONT HEAD ON THE CLAIMS OF CHRIST IN OUR LIVES.

SPURGEON SAID, "ANY THEME WHICH EXALTS THE SAVIOUR IS PRECIOUS TO THE SAINTS." LET'S LOOK AT FOUR THEMES IN PARTICULAR DEVELOPED IN COLOSSIANS.

- I. JESUS IS LORD OF THE CROSS (SAVIOUR)
1:13-14
 (THIS DENIES UNIVERSALISM/DEISM/
 FATALISM)

- THESE VERSES LINK THE PRAYER OF VS. 9-12 AND THE BEAUTIFUL CHRIST HYMN OF VS. 15-20.
- THEY ALSO PUT TO **REST** THREE THEOLOGICAL **ERRORS**:

UNIVERSALISM – ALL WILL BE SAVED.

DEISM – GOD IS UP THERE BUT HE DOES NOT CARE.

FATALISM – WHAT WILL BE WILL BE.

- IN CONTRAST TO THESE FLAWED PERSPECTIVES, THREE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE WORK OF CHRIST ARE HIGHLIGHTED.

1) **GOD HAS DELIVERED US FROM THE POWER OF SATAN** 1:13

IMPRISONED IN THAT REALM WHERE SATAN RULES, GOD THROUGH HIS SON, INVADED THE ENEMIES' TERRITORY AND RESCUED US FROM HIS POWER (*EXOUSIA*), HIS AUTHORITY. IT WAS A KINGDOM OF DARKNESS IN CONTRAST TO THE KINGDOM OF LIGHT OF VS. 12 WHICH THE SAINTS OF GOD ENJOY.

2) **GOD HAS TRANSFERRED US INTO HIS KINGDOM** 1:13

WHEN GOD RESCUED US, HE TOOK US WITH HIM. IN THE PROCESS, HE GAVE US A NEW ADDRESS, A NEW HOME. FORMERLY WE RESIDED WITH SATAN, NOW WE LIVE WITH THE SON. THE WORD "TRANSFERRED" WAS SOMETIMES USED OF A MIGHTY KING

PICKING UP AN ENTIRE POPULATION AND TRANSPORTING THEM TO ANOTHER REALM (HUGHES, 28).

3) **GOD HAS REDEEMED US THROUGH THE PAYMENT OF HIS SON 1:14**

- “THROUGH HIS BLOOD” IS NOT IN BEST MANUSCRIPTS HERE, BUT IS IN V. 20
- REDEMPTION – BELONGS TO THE SLAVE MARKET, IT INVOLVES THE PAYMENT OF A PRICE TO SECURE FREEDOM. THE PRICE WAS THE DEATH OF THE SINLESS, SPOTLESS SON OF GOD. EMP. JUSTICE
- FORGIVENESS – ONLY TWO TIMES IN PAUL (EPH. 1:7; COL. 1:14). EMP. MERCY, AN ACT OF GOD’S GRACE GROWING OUT OF THE ACT OF REDEMPTION. PAYMENT AND MERCY GO TOGETHER WITH GOD

II. **JESUS IS LORD OF CREATION 1:15-17**
(THIS DENIES CULTISM, ATHEISM, EVOLUTION)

LIKE TWIN THEOLOGICAL TOWERS THE LORDSHIP OF THE SON OF GOD IS AFFIRMED OVER CREATION (15-17) AND THE CHURCH (18-20). ISM’S SUCH AS CULTISM, ATHEISM, AGNOSTICISM, EVOLUTION AND NATURALISM ARE ECLIPSED IN THE GLORIOUS LIGHT OF THE SON, AND IN THE PROCESS FIVE IMPORTANT FACETS OF HIS LORDSHIP ARE ANNOUNCED TO A REDEEMED UNIVERSE.

1) **HE IS LORD BECAUSE OF HIS REALITY 1:15**

IMAGE ⇒ *EIKON* – HE IS THE VISIBLE REPRESENTATION AND REFLECTION OF GOD, THE VISIBLE MANIFESTATION AND REVELATION OF GOD. *EIKON* SPEAKS OF THE OUTWARD ILLUMINATION OF AN INNER CORE, ESSENCE OR REALITY. IT IS THE OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF AN INNER REALITY.

BOTTOMLINE: JESUS MAKES VISIBLE THE INVISIBLE GOD. WHATEVER IT IS THAT MAKES GOD GOD, JESUS IS. LET OUR LORD SPEAK FOR HIMSELF:

- JOHN 10:30 – “I AND MY FATHER ARE ONE”
- JOHN 14:9 – “HE WHO HAS SEEN ME HAS SEEN THE FATHER”
- JOHN 8:58 – “MOST ASSUREDLY I SAY TO YOU, BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, I AM!”

THE REFORMER JOHN CALVIN GOT IT RIGHT WHEN HE WROTE, “PAUL CALLS CHRIST THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD. HE IS STATING THAT IT IS THROUGH HIM ALONE THAT GOD, WHO IS OTHERWISE INVISIBLE, IS MANIFESTED TO US. CHRIST IS THE IMAGE OF GOD BECAUSE HE MAKES GOD VISIBLE TO US. BECAUSE OF THIS WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO SEEK GOD ELSEWHERE, FOR OUTSIDE OF CHRIST ALL THAT CLAIMS TO REPRESENT GOD WILL TURN OUT TO BE AN IDOL” (P. 312)

I LIKE THE WAY JOHN MACARTHUR PUTS IT:

IF GOD WERE A MAN . . .

IF GOD WERE A MAN, WE WOULD EXPECT HIM TO BE SINLESS. *JESUS WAS.*

IF GOD WERE A MAN, WE WOULD EXPECT HIM TO SPEAK THE GREATEST WORDS EVER SPOKEN. *JESUS DID.*

IF GOD WERE A MAN, WE WOULD EXPECT HIM TO EXERT A MORE PROFOUND INFLUENCE ON HUMAN PERSONALITY THAN ANY BEING THAT EVER LIVED. *JESUS DID.*

IF GOD WERE A MAN, WE WOULD EXPECT HIM TO LOVE. *JESUS DID.*

- JOHN MACARTHUR

GOD BECAME A MAN IN THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST. IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT GOD IS LIKE, LOOK AT HIM. HE IS "*THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD*" (COL. 1:15A)

TRAGICALLY, BUT NOT SURPRISING, NOT EVERYONE FEELS THIS WAY, INCLUDING SOME WHO MINISTER IN THE CHURCH. THE LONDON SUNDAY TIMES REPORTED ON NOV-11-97 THAT "MORE THAN 70 SERVING ANGLICAN PRIESTS ARE MEMBERS OF AN ORGANIZATION THAT DOES NOT BELIEVE . . . IN THE EXISTENCE OF GOD. CALLED THE 'SEA OF FAITH,' ONE PRIEST PUT THE CHRISTMAS STORY ON THE SAME LEVEL AS THE STORY OF FATHER CHRISTMAS. SAID STEPHEN MITCHELL, . . . "PEOPLE NEED TO STOP GETTING HUNG UP ABOUT WHETHER PEOPLE ARE REAL OR NOT. IF YOU SEE A MAN WITH A WHITE BEARD AND A RED CLOAK YOU SAY THAT'S FATHER CHRISTMAS. THAT'S THE WAY I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST."

- STEPHEN MITCHELL MAY COMPARE JESUS TO FATHER CHRISTMAS, BUT THE APOSTLE PAUL SAYS “HE IS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD.” WHEN YOU SEE JESUS, YOU ARE LOOKING AT GOD. TRANS. HE IS LORD BECAUSE OF HIS REALITY.

2) **HE IS LORD BECAUSE OF HIS SOVEREIGNTY 1:15**

ALL OF EIGHT OCCURRENCES IN VS. 15-20, EMP. THE ALL ENCOMPASSING NATURE OF CHRIST’S LORDSHIP

FIRSTBORN (*PROTOTOKOS*) – A WORD THAT CAN EMP CHRONOLOGY AND FIRSTNESS IN TIME OR PRIORITY AND FIRST IN POSITION. HERE IT CONVEYS THE IDEAS OF PRIMACY, PRIORITY, AND SUPREMACY. WE ARE HELPED BY PS. 89:27 – SPEAKING OF DAVID’S DESCENDANT WHO WILL BE MESSIAH THE BIBLE SAYS, “I WILL MAKE HIM [MESSIAH] MY FIRST BORN, THE HIGHEST OF THE KINGS OF THE EARTH.” HERE PRIORITY AND SUPREMACY ARE CLEARLY IN VIEW.

NOTE – IT IS OVER ALL CREATION! CHRIST IS LORD NOT OF SOME THINGS OR MOST THINGS, HE IS LORD OF ALL THINGS. HE IS FIRST IN RANK, HONOR PRIVILEGE AND STATUS. NO ONE IS HIGHER THAN JESUS!

3) **HE IS LORD BECAUSE OF HIS CREATIVITY 1:16**

ALL THINGS – BIG/LITTLE, GREAT/SMALL, COMPLEX/SIMPLE, MACRO/MICRO. HE

MADE THEM ALL. SEVERAL CRUCIAL TRUTHS MUST BE NOTED AT THIS POINT.

- IF HE MADE EVERYTHING, HE, HIMSELF CANNOT BE A CREATURE.
- PAUL, A 1ST CENTURY JEW, WOULD ONLY KNOW THE GOD OF GEN. 1:1 AS CREATOR.
- THE WATCHTOWER'S *NEW WORLD TRANSLATION OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES* SEES THE PROBLEM AND CHANGES THE BIBLE TO FIT THEIR HERETICAL THEOLOGY.
- THE WORD "OTHER" IN BRACKETS APPEARS FIVE TIMES IN VS. 16-20. THEY CHANGE GOD'S WORD TO FIT THEIR THEOLOGY. DO YOU? DO WE?!
- THE SPIRITUAL WORLD/THE MATERIAL WORLD: HE MADE THEM.
- SPIRITUAL BEINGS THAT TERRORIZED THE ANCIENT WORLD AND FASCINATES THE MODERN WORLD: HE MADE THEM. ALL THINGS WERE MADE BY, THROUGH AND FOR HIM. THAT INCLUDES YOU AND THAT INCLUDES ME. EVERYTHING THAT EXISTS, EXISTS FOR JESUS.
- THE FATHER IS THE AUTHOR OF CREATION. THE FATHER IS THE ARCHITECT OF CREATION. THE SPIRIT IS THE AGENT OF CREATION. BUT IT ALL FINDS ITS MEANING AND FULFILLMENT IN JESUS.

4) **HE IS LORD BECAUSE OF HIS PRIORITY**
1:17

- THERE NEVER WAS A TIME WHEN HE WAS NOT (CF. JOHN 1:1-3)

- NEVER WAS THERE A TIME WHEN GOD WAS NOT FATHER.
- NEVER WAS THERE A TIME WHEN THE SON DID NOT EXIST. BETHLEHEM WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE MAN JESUS, BUT ETERNITY HAS ALWAYS KNOWN THE SON.

5) **HE IS LORD BECAUSE OF HIS CONSISTENCY 1:17**

CONSIST – HOLD TOGETHER. HE IS CREATOR AND SUSTAINER. JESUS HAS NOT LEFT US ON OUR OWN OR FORGOTTEN US. DAILY, MOMENT BY MOMENT, HE MAINTAINS AND SUSTAINS EVERY GALAXY, EVERY MOLECULE.

- HE TRULY HAS “THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS.”

III. JESUS IS LORD OF THE CHURCH (LEADER). 1:18-20
(THIS DENIES INDIVIDUALISM/FACTIONALISM)

1) **HE IS FIRST 1:18**

CHRIST IS FIRST OVER CREATION BECAUSE HE MADE IT. CHRIST IS FIRST OVER THE CHURCH BECAUSE HE SAVED IT.

A) **IN POSITION**

HE IS THE HEAD, THE LEADER, THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. NO ONE HAS FIRST PLACE IN THE CHURCH BUT JESUS.

B) **BY RESURRECTION**

FIRSTBORN – CHRIST IS FIRST IN A
NEW ORDER OF EXISTENCE:
RESURRECTION EXISTENCE. HE IS
THE MOST IMPORTANT ONE TO RISE
FROM THE DEAD AND BECAUSE HE
ROSE, WE WILL RISE TOO!

- ALL OF THIS HAS A GOAL – THAT IN ALL THINGS HE MAY HAVE THE PREEMINENCE (1ST PLACE, THE SUPREME POSITION)
- JESUS, NOT THE PASTOR, IS TO BE FIRST.
JESUS, NOT THE DEACONS, IS TO BE FIRST.
JESUS, NOT THE CHOIR, IS TO BE FIRST.
JESUS, NOT THE YOUTH, IS TO BE FIRST.
JESUS, NOT THE WEALTHY, IS TO BE FIRST.
JESUS, NOT ANYONE, IS TO BE FIRST.
- JESUS IS NOT INTERESTED IN BEING THE CO-PILOT OF YOUR LIFE, THE RUNNER-UP OF YOUR BEAUTY CONTEST, THE VP OF YOUR CORPORATION.
- IN OUR WORSHIP, HE IS TO BE FIRST.
IN OUR WITNESS, HE IS TO BE FIRST.
IN OUR WORK, HE IS TO BE FIRST.
IN OUR WANTS, HE IS TO BE FIRST.

WARREN WIERSBE: “FEW WOULD DENY THE IMPORTANCE OF JESUS CHRIST. THEY WOULD SIMPLY DETHRONE HIM. THEY WOULD GIVE HIM PROMINENCE BUT NOT PREEMINENCE.”

DO YOU REALLY WANT JESUS MORE THAN ANYTHING?

2) HE HAS FULLNESS 1:19

PLEASED – LIKE THE BAPTISM (MATT. 3)
AND THE TRANSFIGURATION (MATT. 17)

ALL FULLNESS – TOTALITY, FULL
MEASURE, EVERYTHING. EVERYTHING
THAT GOD IS, JESUS IS. 2:9-10 AMPLIFIES
THIS EVEN FURTHER. HE IS NOT SOME GOD
OR MOSTLY GOD, HE IS COMPLETELY GOD.

DWELL – TO BE AT HOME, TO TAKE UP
RESIDENCE. THE FULLNESS OF DEITY IS AT
HOME IN THE SON. HIS FATHER SAYS SO.
JESUS IS THE “EXHAUSTION OF GOD.”

3) HE PROVIDES FORGIVENESS 1:20

PAUL RETURNS IN PART TO THE THEM OF
VS. 14.

RECONCILE – TO BRING TOGETHER
OPPOSING AND HOSTILE PARTIES.

PEACE – AS AN OBJECTIVE REALITY (CF.
ROM. 5:1)

BLOOD OF HIS CROSS – THE DEATH OF
CRUCIFIXION

ILLUSTRATION

- I LOVE MUCH OF THE CONTEMPORARY PRAISE MUSIC, BUT I MISS SOME OF THE WONDERFUL HYMNS, ESP. THOSE ABOUT THE BLOOD.
- OLD IS NOT ALWAYS BAD. NEW IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER.
- WOULD THE CHURCH BE BETTER OR WORSE, STRONGER OR WEAKER IF WE HAD A STEADY DIET OF “NOTHING BUT

THE BLOOD,” “THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD,” “ARE YOU WASHED IN THE BLOOD?” “ALAS, AND DID MY SAVIOUR BLEED,” “THERE IS A FOUNTAIN FILLED WITH BLOOD.”

- DELORES WILLIAMS DOES NOT THINK SO. IN NOV. 1993 AT “RE-IMAGINING 1993” SHE SAID, “I DON’T THINK WE NEED A THEORY OF ATONEMENT AT ALL . . . I DON’T THINK WE NEED FOLKS HANGING ON CROSSES AND BLOOD DRIPPING AND WEIRD STUFF.” SHE WAS JOINED BY SELF-PROFESSED LESBIAN FEMINIST VIRGINIA MOLLENKOTT WHO ADDED, “I CAN NO LONGER WORSHIP IN A THEOLOGICAL CONTEXT THAT DEPICTS GOD AS AN ABUSIVE PARENT AND JESUS AS THE OBEDIENT TRUSTING CHILD.
- WILLIAMS IN THE BOOK *SISTERS IN THE WILDERNESS* (P. 61) CONCLUDES, “THERE IS NOTHING DIVINE IN THE BLOOD OF THE CROSS.”
- CONTRAST THIS WITH THE MAJESTIC WORDS OF CHARLES WESLEY: “AND CAN IT BE THAT I SHOULD GAIN, AN INTEREST IN THE SAVIOUR’S BLOOD? DIED HE FOR ME, WHO CAUSED HIS PAIN? FOR ME, WHO HIM TO DEATH PURSUED? AMAZING LOVE! HOW CAN IT BE, THAT THOU, MY GOD, SHOULDST DIE FOR ME?”

IV. JESUS IS LORD OF THE CHRISTIAN
(MASTER) 1:21-23
 (THIS DENIES EGOISM)

VS. 21-23 IS A SINGLE SENTENCE IN GREEK

1) **BE SET APART FOR HIS GLORY 1:21-22**

THEN

ALIENATED – ESTRANGED, SEPARATED,
OUTSIDE THE SPHERE OF GOD’S BLESSING.

ENEMIES IN YOUR MIND – ACTIVELY
HOSTILE TOWARDS GOD (CF. ROM. 5:10;
JAMES 4:4). WE MADE OURSELVES HIS
ENEMIES.

WICKED WORKS – THOUGHTS LEAD TO
ACTIONS. IN ATTITUDE AND ACTION,
BELIEVE AND LIFE WE REJECTED GOD’S
WILL FOR OUR LIVES.

NOW

RECONCILED – AT PEACE AND IN HARMONY
(ROM. 5:8)

HOLY – SET APART, CLEANSED FROM ALL
SIN. RELATES TO GOD.

BLAMELESS – FAULTLESS, WITHOUT
BLEMISH. RELATES TO OURSELVES.

ABOVE REPROACH – ABOVE ACCUSATION.
RELATES TO OTHERS.

IN HIS SIGHT – THE ONLY PLACE THAT
MATTERS.

2) **BE STEADFAST IN THE GOSPEL 1:23**

IN THE PAST WE WERE RECONCILED; NOW WE MUST CONTINUE.

YOU CONTINUE – ASSUMING YOU WILL; PAUL IS CONFIDENT WE WILL. PETER O'BRIEN, "IF IT IS TRUE THAT THE SAINTS WILL PERSEVERE TO THE END, THEN IT IS EQUALLY TRUE THAT THE SAINTS MUST PERSEVERE TO THE END (P. 64)

THE FAITH – THE DEPOSIT OF SACRED TRUTH IN THE GOSPEL

GROUNDING – STABLE, FOUNDED SECURELY, AS ON A ROCK; "HAVE A SURE FOUNDATION"

STEADFAST – SETTLED, HAVING A STEADY AND FIRM RESOLVE; "HAVE A FIRMNESS OF STRUCTURE"

NOT MOVED AWAY – NOT SHIFTING (PRE-TENSE), CONSTANTLY MOVING; "STAY HERE AND NEVER MOVE." IT IS THE ONLY SAFE HARBOR!

PREACHED TO EVERY CREATURE – THIS GOSPEL WAS THE SAME GOSPEL PREACHED IN EVERY CITY. WHEREVER THE GOSPEL HAD BEEN PREACHED, IT IS THIS GOSPEL, AND NO OTHER, WHICH HAD BEEN PROCLAIMED.

I, PAUL – ESP. EMPHATIC. "IT MAY REFLECT PAUL'S SENSE OF WONDER AT HIS BEGINNING COMMISSIONED A MINISTER."

MINISTER – (*DIAKONOS*) A "GOSPEL DEACON"

CONCLUSION

“THE VICTORY OF THE KING”

THE LORD SAID YES TO THE DEATH OF THE CROSS, CRIED IT IS FINISHED AND THEN HE DIED. IN THE LEGIONS OF DARKNESS THE DEVIL CELEBRATED, “WE’VE DESTROYED THE KING!” HE CRIED.

BUT AMIDST THE CELEBRATION FOOTSTEPS WERE HEARD WALKING THE CORRIDORS OF HELL. THEN THE SHOUTING STOPPED WHEN A VOICE RANG OUT, A VOICE THAT RANG OUT LIKE A BELL.

SATAN THEN TREMBLED AS HE RECOGNIZED HIM WHO CAME TO DELIVER HIS OWN. “SHUT AND LOCK THE GATES!” HE CRIED. “DON’T LET HIM ASCEND TO HIS THRONE!”

SO THE GATES SWUNG SHUT IN THE FACE OF THE KING, TO PROVE GOD’S SALVATION UNTRUE. BUT HE SHOOK HELL’S GATES AND CRIED, “LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, THE KING IS COMING THROUGH!”

THEN OUT OF THE DEVIL’S PRISON HOUSE CAME A PROCESSION LED BY THE KING, “O GRAVE, WHERE IS THY VICTORY; O DEATH, WHERE IS THY STING!”

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

JESUS SAID YES TO THE CROSS FOR YOU. WILL YOU SAY YES TO HIS LORDSHIP FOR HIM?