

Eternity Daily Bible Study

The Importance Of Love

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Verses: Colossians 1:13-22

Topic: Love And The Story Of The Son of God

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Colossians 1:13-22 *For He has delivered us from the power of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son; (14) in whom we have redemption through His blood, the remission of sins. (15) who is the image of the invisible God, the First-born of all creation. (16) For all things were created in Him, the things in the heavens, and the things on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers, all things were created through Him and for Him. (17) And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. (18) And He is the Head of the body, the church, who is the Beginning, the First-born from the dead, that He may be pre-eminent in all things. (19) For it pleased the Father that in Him all fullness should dwell. (20) And through Him having made peace through the blood of His cross, it pleased the Father to reconcile all things to Himself through Him, whether the things on earth or the things in Heaven. (21) And you, who were once alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled (22) in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and without blemish, and without charge in His sight,*

Yesterday I wrote briefly about the Three Big Stories that we can be part of, they were:

1. The Story of Creation and the Cosmos
2. The Story of Love and Redemption
3. The Story of God's Glory

There actually are all One Story – the Story of the eternal Son of God, who became incarnate in Jesus Christ and who will return in glory! This Son of God is the One through Whom and for Whom the worlds were made and by Whom all things consist:

Colossians 1:15-17 *(15) who is the image of the invisible God, the First-born of all creation. (16) For all things were created in Him, the things in the heavens, and the things on the earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers, all things were created through Him and for Him. (17) And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.*

The story of Creation has its beginning and end in the Son of God – the whole of Creation was made in Him, for Him, by Him and through Him. The Son of God is the very beginning of all things! They were made by Him and nothing was made without Him:

John 1:1-3 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) The same was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

The story of the Son of God begins with Him being the heir of the entire Universe, the first-born of all Creation. He is the Boss of the created order! As part of God's Creation we are part of the story of God's Son for Whom we were made! The Son of God existed way before Creation and it is "in Him", that is within His sphere of power, authority and being, that all things consist:

Colossians 1:17 *And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.*

So the planets and stars and angels and goldfish – indeed all created beings are simply elements in the story of the Son of God. We exist for Him, our careers are for Him, our love is for Him, our worship is for Him, even our eating and drinking is for Him:

1 Corinthians 10:31 *Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*

Love and Redemption And the Story Of The Son

The second story, the story of Love and Redemption is also clearly part of the story of the Son of God:

Colossians 1:14, 18-20 *(14) in whom we have redemption through His blood, the remission of sins. ...(18) And He is the Head of the body, the church, who is the Beginning, the First-born from the dead, that He may be pre-eminent in all things. (19) For it pleased the Father that in Him all fullness should dwell. (20) And through Him having made peace through the blood of His cross, it pleased the Father to reconcile all things to Himself through Him, whether the things on earth or the things in Heaven.*

The created Universe went astray. It sinned, fell, became disordered and started to bring shame on God. It became full wickedness and violence, indeed it even became hostile to God! His Creation had entered into the power of Death, it was self-annihilating and perishing! This rebellious Universe needed to be brought back to God, made at peace with God and reconciled to God and this was delegated to God's beloved Son to do:

John 3:16-17 *For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that the world might be saved through Him.*

So Christ was sent into the world to die on the Cross and reconcile all things to Himself, even things on Heaven or on Earth, indeed the entire created order needed to be brought back to God! God's created order was falling apart and dying from sin and Jesus was sent into this world to rescue it!

Romans 8:20-22 *For the creation was not willingly subjected to vanity, but because of Him who subjected it on hope (21) that the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. (22) And we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now.*

The part of Creation that we are most aware of is the human part, and that part is where the story of Love and Redemption finds its potency in the work of Jesus Christ, the Savior and Son of God who reconciles the world to Himself:

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, all things have become new. (18) And all things are of God, who reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and who gave to us the ministry of this reconciliation, (19) that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not reckoning their transgressions to them, and committing to us the word of this reconciliation.*

In Christ, God has committed Himself to us in love, to save us, redeem us and to bring us back into full fellowship with Himself and with the entire created order. This section of the story of the Son of God is being acted out in crusades, evangelistic meetings, counseling sessions, and missionary efforts around the globe.

Glory And The Story Of The Son

Thirdly the story of God's Glory is part of the story of the Son of God. The Son has a Kingdom and this Kingdom has a glory:

Colossians 1:13 *For He has delivered us from the power of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son;*

Matthew 6:13 *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

2 Timothy 4:18 *And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work and will preserve me to His heavenly kingdom, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

The Holy Spirit exists to glorify the Son by releasing the things of God into the earth:

John 16:13-14 *However, when He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth. For He shall not speak of Himself, but whatever He hears, He shall speak. And He will announce to you things to come. (14) He will glorify Me, for He will receive of Mine and will announce it to you.*

The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus who in turn glorifies the Father:

John 14:13-14 *And whatever you may ask in My name, that I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. (14) If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.*

So the glory of the Son, also glorifies the Father:

Philippians 2:9-11 *Therefore God has highly exalted Him, and has given Him a name which is above every name, (10) that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of heavenly ones, and of earthly ones, and of ones under the earth; (11) and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

So as Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is enthroned in triumphant glory and receives the Name that is above every other Name, the Father is greatly honored by the successful (and marvelous) work of the Son. In this age the story of glory is the story of the ever increasing glory of the Son of God!

Love & The Story Of The Son

Our life story only gains cogency when it becomes part of the Story of the Son of God. For example the story of Billy Graham is part of the story of the Son of God winning souls back from sin and the story of William Booth (founder of the Salvation Army) is the story of the Son of God ministering amid the darkness, poverty and squalor of Victorian London.

My story has zero validity on its own. My story is totally empty and without meaning as are all human activities "under the sun" (that is those things that are done without taking Heaven's agenda into account). Solomon saw this clearly when he looked at his own achievements (see the book of Ecclesiastes). Without Jesus we can do nothing, and without His love we are nothing!

In John 15 Jesus instructs His disciples on how to stay "in the story" by abiding in Him and loving one another so that they may have fruitful and powerful lives:

John 15:4-12 *Abide in Me, and I in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit on its own, unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. (5) I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; because apart from Me you can do nothing. ... (7) If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what ever you may desire, and it shall be done for you. (8) By this My Father is glorified, that you may bear much fruit; and you will become My disciples. (9) "Just as the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. (10) If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and I abide in His love.(12) This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.*

It becomes clear now! By obeying Christ's command to "love one another as I have loved you" we join in with God's plan for divine fruitfulness!

More than that we become part of God's plan to create a Universe of loving, moral beings in His own image.

Romans 8:28-29 *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. (29) Because whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.*

Notice that this wonderful plan is "to those who love God"? As we love God, by loving our brothers and sisters in Christ, then God's plan starts unfolding for us. The Story of the Son is a dramatic, global even cosmic love story and it is as we join in that love story that we find our meaning, purpose and glory in life!

Blessings,

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