

CHRIST IS ALL

COLOSSIANS 3:11 • TV142A

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Colossians 3:11

“Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.”

I’m speaking to you today from the **Book of Colossians**. I will be reading from the **3rd chapter verse: 11.**

While you are finding the passage of Scripture, let me announce my subject; I will be speaking on the subject: **“CHRIST IS ALL.”**

I have preached from this text many times. I have preached from this text several times on this program. With your patience and your indulgence, I want to do so again, (and I might add again, and again) because this is the sum, the substance, and the essence of our Gospel, of our hope, and of our glory.

It says in verse **11 of Colossians chapter 3:** *“Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.”*

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My friend; he who longs to know the living God will make absolutely no progress in his quest until he knows beyond a doubt that in the knowledge of God Jesus Christ is all.

Our Lord said in **John 17:3**: *“this is eternal life that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.”*

First of all: Now, here is the question: How does a man know God?

The disciples asked that question, they said: *“Lord; show us the Father and it satisfieth us.”*

Christ said: *“Have I been so long time with you and yet you do not know me? He that hath seen me hath seen my Father.”* And again he said: *“No man knoweth the Father save the son and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.”*

So, if there is anybody out there who longs to know the living God, and David said: *“as the heart panteth for the waterbrooks, so panteth my soul for thee (the living God), in a dry and thirsty land.”* My soul longs to know the living God!

My friend; he who longs to know the living God will make absolutely no progress, no progress whatsoever, until he comes to this conclusion that in the knowledge of God Christ is all. *“He that honereth the Father honoreth the Son and he that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which has sent him.”*

Christ reveals the Father. God is revealed in the Son. If you know Christ you know the Father. If you do not know Christ you will never know the Father.

Second: He who seeks the pardon and forgiveness of sin, I want that very much I want my sins forgiven. David said this: *“Happy is the man to whom God will not charge sin. Blessed is the man to whom God will not impute iniquity.”*

That is a blessed man. That is a happy man to know that all of your sins are forgiven, all of your sins, past, present and future, are put away, blotted out, covered over, *“cast into the depths of the sea and separated from you as far as the east is from the west.”*

Do you want that; do you desire that? I do but I will tell you this, he who longs for the pardon and the forgiveness of sin will make no progress toward that goal until he learns that in the forgiveness of sin Christ is all: *“in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sin, through his blood.”*

Peter said: *“You know that you are not redeemed with corruptible things such as silver and gold from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*

“It’s the blood of Jesus Christ, God’s Son that cleanseth us from all sin.” So, in the forgiveness of sin, Christ is all. In the knowledge of the Father, Christ is all.

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Third: Watch this, he who would be sanctified, he who would be made holy (I'm not talking about in the eyes of men), I'm not talking about before this world; I am talking about in the sight of God.

He who would be holy and without blame in God's presence will make no progress toward that goal until he knows that in sanctification, in righteousness, in holiness, Christ is all; that's right. He's all of our sanctification. We are holy in Christ.

Outside of Christ there is no holiness. Outside of Christ there is no righteousness. Actually, in Isaiah it says; **Isaiah 64:6:** "*our righteousnesses, are filthy rags. We all do fade as the leaf and our righteousnesses in God's sight are filthy rags.*"

"In the flesh dwelleth no good thing. In the flesh no man can please God," either saved flesh or lost flesh, either submissive flesh, or rebellious flesh.

But Christ is our righteousness. The righteousness of God is Christ, who Himself, on behalf of His sheep; fully, completely, and totally, satisfied God's justice, and obeyed God's law. He is our sanctification.

Fourth: He who would live forever, (and that's what we want isn't it) he who would live forever in the eternal kingdom of God, will only enjoy that blessed state in Christ!

That's where salvation is and that is where eternal life is. John wrote: "*This is the record: God hath given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son of God hath eternal life and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*"

So, he who would know God, he who would be pardoned and forgiven of all sin, the person who would be sanctified holy in the presence and sight of God, and he who would live forever in the eternal kingdom of God must know that Jesus Christ is all and in all: He is all of our wisdom, all of our righteousness, all of our sanctification, and all of our redemption.

I want to divide this message into four parts. I will preach it to you under four headings and you remember these four headings if you can. If you can't, I will give them to you as I go along.

First of all: Jesus Christ is all in the eternal plan and purpose of God!

Now, God had a plan, before this world was made, God had a purpose before He ever did a work. Almighty God always plans and purposes what He plans to do.

Secondly: Christ is all in the Bible; He is all as far as the Bible is concerned!

Thirdly: Christ is all in the redemption of a sinner, in the redemption of any sinner, you, me, or anyone else, Abraham, Moses, or Jacob; Christ is all!

Fourthly: Then in heaven, for eternal ages, Christ is all!

Now, let's take those one at a time:

First of all: Jesus Christ is all in the eternal plan and purpose of God!

There was a time, my friend, when the earth had no being. There was a time when the earth did not exist as we know it now. There was a time when there were no mountains or rivers, seas, or oceans.

There was no green grass and trees, in fact, there were no stars; there was no moon, and sun, no planets. There was a time when none of these things existed.

If Jesus Christ is all, I ask this question: if He is all and in all, where was He then? Well, let me read you the Scripture in **John Chapter 1:1**: "*In the beginning was the Word, (capital W-O-R-D).*" Now, words are vehicles of thought. Words are the way we communicate what we want to tell someone else; that's how we communicate with them, by words.

Jesus Christ is God's communication. Jesus Christ is a revelation of the Father. The way the Father speaks to us is through His Son and that Word of God who is Jesus Christ the Lord, says: "*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.*"

When He prayed in **John 17:5**, He said: "*Father; glorify thou me with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.*" Jesus Christ is God almighty and He was with the Father in the beginning.

When God made man, He said: "*let us make man, (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).*" I can't explain the Trinity but I can believe it. There are a lot of things about God that I can't explain.

There are a lot of things about God and His redemptive purposes and His eternal glory and His eternal power that I can't understand but I believe it.

I don't walk by sight, I walk by faith and you had better also. I believe God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit existed together before all things were made. Christ is all; He is all.

Secondly: There was a time when the world was created in its present form. There was a time when the sun was put in space and the moon, the stars, and each planet, was ordained to follow its chartered course.

The world was made and put down here and God divided the ocean and the water from the dry land. He made the night and the day. He made the trees and the mountains and the valleys and all of these things. Last of all: He made man.

Now, if Jesus Christ is all, where was He then? Well, let's read the Word. It says in **John 1:2**: "*And all things were made by him and without him was not anything made that was made. He was in the world and the world was made by him.*"

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Listen to **Colossians 1:16**: *“For by him, (that is Christ), were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible.*

“He is before all things and by him all things consist. Christ is all.” Christ is all in creation: *“all things were made by him and for him.”*

All right, there was a day when sin entered this world. We know that God created man holy and upright and without sin. God created man in His own image and that man was given a law; there was a covenant of works made with that man.

God put a tree in the Garden of Eden and He said: *“don’t eat of it; in the day that you eat of it, you shall surely die.”*

We know that man rebelled against God (just like Lucifer, Satan, the fallen angel), and Adam rebelled in such a way that he ate of that tree and he died spiritually. Death, condemnation, judgment, darkness, and evil passed upon all men.

Man fell. He was permeated with guilt, shame, hatred, and all of these evil emotions and evil nature. Christ is all; where was He then?

I will tell you this: He was the light that God promised to a dark world. He was the life that God promised to a dead world. He was the hope that God promised to a hopeless world.

When the angels fell, there was no Saviour provided, there was no Saviour promised. *“He took not on himself the nature of angels.”* The angels that fell were *“reserved, chained in darkness, and reserved until judgment, unto the Day of Judgment.”*

But God promised man a Saviour. He said that a man would come into this world, *“born of a woman, (not of the seed of man), but of the seed of woman, (and be born of the Holy Spirit).”*

Jesus Christ was God’s promise of redemption in the darkest hour that this world has ever experienced, when man was plunged into death and evil and sickness and disease.

Now, there was a time when the world, several thousand years later, there was a time when the world was buried in religious ignorance, ceremonialism, and superstition. *“The world by wisdom knew not God.”*

If Christ is all, where was Christ then? Let me tell you what the Scripture says: *“the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth:*

“In the fullness of time, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them, born under the law. Christ Jesus came into the world, he came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief.”

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Yes, in that dark hour of superstition, religious ignorance, idolatry, ceremonialism, “*when the world by wisdom knew not God,*” God Himself in the person of His Son, clothed in the likeness of sinful flesh, came into this world and was made flesh, and dwelt among us for the purpose of saving people from their sins.

He came into this world numbered with the transgressors, identified with the rebels. He came into this world clothed in human flesh and was tested and tried and tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin but bearing the burden of our sin. He went to the cross of Calvary and there under the wrath of God, He died. He was buried and rose again. That’s the good news of the Gospel.

Well, let’s go further: There’s a time coming when this world shall end. God said that He wouldn’t destroy the world by water anymore.

When Noah’s Ark came to rest God put a rainbow in the sky and He said: “that’s my covenant, that’s my promise and I will never again judge the world by water. I will never destroy it but I will destroy it by fire.”

The day is coming when God will end this earth’s existence. “*There will be a new heaven and a new earth.*” You might say: “Why a new heaven?” It’s because sin entered there too.

“*I saw Satan fall from heaven,*” Christ said. Sin entered this earth and God is going to do away with all sin, every stain of sin, every jot and tittle of sin, every atom of sin, and every spot of sin.

“*God will make a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness.*” God will judge all men and every man shall give an account of himself to God. We shall all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.

If Christ is all, where will he be then? Listen to the Word: “*God hath given him a name which is above every name that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that he is Lord to the glory of God the Father.*”

We are not going to give credit to men or glory to men or praise to men; we are going to give that credit and glory and praise to the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. “*Every knee shall bow. Every tongue shall confess that he is Lord.*”

God hath made all things in order that Jesus Christ might have the preeminence.” He said: “*The Father judgeth no man but hath committed all judgment to the Son.*”

When this world ends and when God’s judgment throne is approached by every son of Adam out of Christ, the Judge on that throne will be none other than the Lamb who died on the cross. But, He will be the Lion, He will be the Judge. He will be the one who will commit every rebel to the pits of the damned.

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Jesus Christ is all. He said: *“He’s Alpha and Omega. He’s the beginning and the end.”* He’s all in between. Everything that the Father hath decreed, planned, purposed and provided, is because of and is in Jesus Christ the Lord.

Secondly: Christ is all! He is all in the Bible. Now the Bible, my friend, is a book of redemption. Christ is the key that unlocks the treasures of Scripture. Listen to **Acts Chapter 10:43**: *“To him, (that is to Christ), give all the prophets witness.”* He said: *“Moses wrote of me.”* He said: *“Abraham saw my day and was glad.”* If you can compress and condense this Book until you can get one word; that word will be, Jesus Christ.

In **Luke 24:44** He said to them: *“these are the words that I spake unto you while I was yet with you that all things must be fulfilled which are written in the law of Moses, in the prophets, in the Psalms, concerning me.”*

In the beginning of the Bible, in **Genesis chapter 3**, we have Christ is promise. In the middle of the Bible it is Christ in prophecy and Christ in picture. In the end of the Bible in the New Testament it is Christ in person.

You read the Scriptures: Christ is our Passover. Christ is that rock. It was Christ to whom Abel looked when he brought that sacrifice, the lamb without spot or blemish.

It was Christ of whom Eunuch prophesied: *“the Lord cometh with ten thousand of his saints.”* It was Christ that Abraham saw on Mount Moriah when he substituted the ram for his own son. It was Christ of whom Jacob spoke when he lay dying and said: *“the scepter shall not depart from Judah until Shiloh come.”*

It was Christ that the Israelites pictured in the Passover in Egypt. It was Christ pictured in the wilderness. The bread from heaven is Christ. The rock that Moses smote is Christ. The brazen serpent lifted up is Jesus Christ.

The tabernacle where God met men and men met God is Christ. The priesthood, the atonement, every sacrifice, every scapegoat is Jesus Christ. It was Christ of whom David wrote in the Psalms: *“the LORD said to my Lord; sit thou on my right hand.”* It was Christ prophesied from Isaiah to Malachi.

I ask you my friend, what is the Bible to you? Is it a book of history? Is it a book of good, moral precepts? Is it a book of doctrine to be argued? Is it a book of prophecy to be speculated, or is it the Word of God in which you have found Jesus Christ?

If you have not found Christ to be all and in all, if you have not found Christ to be the blessed key to the treasures of Scripture, then you have read your Bible to very little purpose and you will find at the end, as our Lord said to the Pharisees: *“this book will judge you.”*

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Thirdly: Then my friends, Christ is all in the redemption of a sinner! Now, I don't wish to be misunderstood; I hold to the election of the Father, God the Father purposed to redeem. He chose a people in Christ before the foundation of the world.

We are sanctified by God the Father. I believe that and I know that to be true. The purpose is of the Father. He purposed salvation, He planned it, He executed it, He applied it, He sustains it, and He will perfect it.

I believe the Bible teaches a sanctification of the Holy Spirit, the effectual call of the Spirit of God through the Word of God. There's perfect harmony in the blessed Trinity.

But, my friend; in the redemption of a soul, in the salvation of a sinner, it is the purpose of God to glorify His Son. Christ is all in redemption.

It says in Scripture; *"In Christ dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and you are complete in him that in all things he might have the preeminence: of God he is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption."*

Christ is our wisdom, all of our wisdom. Outside of Christ there is nothing but ignorance and foolishness. *"No man knoweth the Father save the Son and he to whom the Son will reveal him."*

Christ is all our righteousness: *"He who knew no sin was made sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

Christ is all of our sanctification: He, Jude said, *"I will present you holy without blame."*

Christ is all of our redemption: *"In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sin through his blood."*

Christ is all of our hope; He says: *"Christ in you; that's the hope of glory."*

My friend, faith is not the Saviour; Christ is. A man's not saved because he believes; a man is saved because Christ died for his sins. A man's not saved who doesn't believe.

Works is not the Saviour; Christ is the Saviour. Works didn't die on the cross. Works did not intercede at the throne of God. Works cannot make us whole; it is Christ that makes us whole.

A man is not saved who does not work: *"faith without works is dead."* Prayer is not the Saviour, but man is not saved who does not pray. Christ is the Saviour. Jesus Christ is our redemption. *"He is our sanctification; he is our righteousness."* He is made all things.

The Father looks on the Son and redeems us. The Father looks on the Son and receives us. The Father looks on the Son and raises us. The Father looks on the Son and enthrones us. It is all in Christ.

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When He died on the cross, we died. When He was buried, we were buried. When He rose again, we arose in Him. Christ is the Saviour. He is the object of faith.

Now, the Word of God is the foundation of faith: *“faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.”* We believe because God has said it; God has written it. *“All Scripture is; it is given by inspiration of God (God-breathed) and it is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”*

But, the Word of God is not the object of faith, Christ is. The Word of God is not the Saviour, Christ is. Somebody said this:

**“I once was lost
But now I’m found
I was blind
But now I see**

**The only hope
The only plea
Is that when Christ died
He died for me.”**

That’s the hope and that’s the plea.

Now; let’s look at the last thing now: *“Christ is all and in all.”*

He’s all in eternal purpose and plan of almighty God: *“known to God are all his works from the beginning.”* He purposed to save, He was pleased to save, He planned to save, and that in Christ.

Christ is all in the redemption of a sinner and Christ is all in the Word of God. The Word is Christ. Christ is the Bible. Christ is salvation. Christ is eternal life.

Last of all: Christ will be all in heaven! Our Lord said to that thief who was hanging with Him on Calvary’s Hill, He said: *“today shalt thou be with me in paradise,”* with me. Christ is heaven; He is heaven. Heaven is to be with Christ.

The apostle Paul said: *“I am in a strait betwixt the two; I have a desire to depart and be with Christ which is far better.”* He said, *“To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.”*

Heaven is Christ; it is to be with Christ. It is to gaze upon Christ’s face. It is to be conformed to the image of Christ. It’s to be made in His likeness. Heaven is Christ.

In **John 14:1**, our Lord said to His disciples: *“let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me: in my Father’s house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you and if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am, there you may be also.”*

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Christ is our heaven. He is all in heaven. As I said before: *“every knee shall bow, every tongue shall confess that he is Lord,”* everybody in heaven, earth, and hell.

But, the praise of Christ will be our eternal song; that’s what the song of heaven is, *“unto him who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood.”*

The glory of Christ will be our delight. We are going to proclaim His Lordship. We are going to exalt and magnify His name forever and forever, the Lamb on the throne, (as if it had been slain).

The service of Christ will be our occupation in heaven. That’s what we are going to do day and night, serve Him.

Then, the presence of Christ will be our security. It is not we or our deeds or our works or our records; our security is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Would you know the Father? The only way to know the Father is in Christ the Son. Would you have your sins all forgiven, all pardoned, all put away? The only way for sin to be pardoned and put away is in Jesus Christ *“who loved us and gave himself for us.”*

Would you my friend, be sanctified, holy, and righteous, in the presence of almighty God, without sin, without stain, without mark, holy, unblameable in his sight, justified in his presence? Would you?

The only way is in Christ. It’s not in an altar, it’s not in a law, it’s not in a denomination, it’s not in a religion; it is in Christ.

Would you live eternally in glory? Christ is heaven. This is what disturbs me, how little men know who talk of going to heaven, when they manifest no love for Christ now, no concern for Christ now, no delight in Christ now, nor in his presence.

My friend; He is heaven. If you don’t enjoy Him now, you will never enjoy Him there!