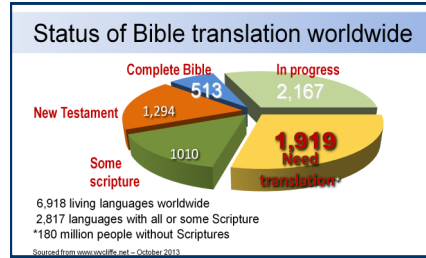


- ◆ Jesus said: *I will build My church..* Matthew 16:18. *Missiologists tell us many thousands of new followers of Jesus are added to the church each day!! (5000 die each week as martyrs!)*
- ◆ *Of over 6,900 + different language groups in the world many do not have one word of the Bible in their own tongue. We have a big task to do!!*



7. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead.... Vs 18

**The Truths that Change our Lives....**

- Jesus is God. That means I can \_\_\_\_\_ on Him
- Jesus is the firstborn. That means I can look to Him as the Leader
- Jesus is the Creator. That means He understands everything about me.
- Jesus is the owner. That means I give myself back to Him
- Jesus is the Sustainer. That means I can depend on Him
- Jesus is the Head of the Church. That means I can look to Him for direction.
- He's the beginning of the Church. That means I can praise Him
- He's the first resurrected. That means I have a hope for eternal resurrection

**III. TRUST JESUS FOR YOUR .....**

Vs 21... *Once you were alienated from God..... Vs 22..... But now He has reconciled you to Himself through the death of Christ in His physical body.... "The star breather (Psalm 33:6) became the sin bearer" Louie Giglio.... **Jesus is the only way to God** John 14:6; Acts 4:12*

Vs 23.... *If you continue in your faith, established and firm.... Have you committed your life to Jesus Christ? Acts 3:19...**Repent then and turn to God so that your sins maybe wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord... Jesus is the only One who can deal with our sin..***

- After two years of investigation Lee came to the conclusion that the evidence truly pointed to the One in the Manger is indeed Jesus Christ..Son of God—and Creator (Colossians 1:16). The atheist became a follower of Jesus ... John 1:12..
- At Christmas, and indeed every day, we celebrate and give thanks for the words the angels spoke to the shepherds out in the paddocks on that first Christmas night. *"...a Saviour has been born to you: He is Christ the Lord."* (Luke 2:11) . Believe, repent and receive (John 1:12) the most wonderful Gift of all.—the Christ of Christmas...born in a manger, - Saviour, Lord and coming King Have a joy filled Christmas ... John 1:14....

**Is Jesus God? (Who was in the Manger?) ... Colossians 1:13 -23**

14 year old Lee Strobel was sitting in his science class at school when he heard about Darwin's theory of evolution. He heard that "chance random processes" over millions of years produced all life forms. Lee Strobel's immediate response was to declare that "God was out of a job" and Lee became an atheist.

Lee went on to become an award winning journalist after graduating from Yale law school. One day Lee was shocked that his agnostic wife started attending church. One day she invited Lee to "come to church with me". Lee attended to hear the message from the pastor and tear it to pieces. Lee listened to the message with scepticism. However, he heard enough about the person of Jesus Christ to make him realise he needed to investigate further. **Lee determined that the pivotal question of history was "Who was in the manger?"**. Who is Jesus Christ? Was he just a nice guy? Or was He a complete fabrication? Or is He God's Son? - therefore God Incarnate. A good question to to consider so close to Christmas.

Paul writes his letter with this structure

**AN OUTLINE OF COLOSSIANS**

Chapter 1	Doctrine	Christ's Pre-eminence Declared
Chapter 2	Danger	Christ's Pre-eminence Defended
Chapter 3	Duty	Christ's Pre-eminence Demonstrated

In the process of looking at this passage we are reminded of so much Christians can be grateful for!

**I. THANK JESUS FOR MY**

1. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us. Vs 13.. *Jesus has rescued us from the dominion of darkness* (The 12 Thai boys and their coach expressed their profuse gratitude and thanks for their rescue from the cave. Even more so Easter reminds us to express our gratitude to Jesus for His sacrificial death on the cross for our benefit).
2. Jesus "transferred" us Vs 13... *brought us into the Kingdom of the Son...*
3. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ us. Vs 14... *in whom we have redemption .. Christ has not only set us free and transferred us to a new kingdom, but He has canceled every debt so we cannot be enslaved again... τετελεσται—"It is finished"* John 19:30...
4. Jesus has \_\_\_\_\_ us. Vs 14.. *the forgiveness of sins..* 1 John 1:9.. *If we confess*

**II. BELIEVE THE \_\_\_\_\_ ABOUT JESUS**

- Humankind's greatest problem is sin—a problem that can never be solved by a philosopher or a religious teacher. Sinners need a Saviour. .. There is only one Saviour... John 14:6; Acts 4:12...
- ◆ The Colossians faced a heresy that threatened their view of who Jesus really is. There is false teaching about Jesus today too.. eg Scientology recognizes Christ... but they deny His deity... Mormons, Christadelphians recognize the existence of Christ but say He is not the Son of God... Gnostic "Gospels" are still having an impact—remember "The da Vinci Code" film. Many other faiths recognize Jesus as a prophet or a "good man". All other faiths deny His deity. The Bible says clearly... Jesus is God. .. eg Colossians 1:19 and 2:9 as I said clearly to two JW's at our door.

## Truths about Jesus

1. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ vs 15

*The Son is the image (εἰκὼν) of the invisible God vs 15. “Exact representation”... “likeness” Colossians 1:19 For God was pleased to have all His fullness (πληρωμα) dwell in Him (Jesus)*

- ◆ Nature reveals the existence, power, and wisdom of God (Romans 1:20) — but cannot reveal the very essence of God to us. Only in Christ is the invisible God revealed perfectly. (Wiersbe) Colossians 2:9..*For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form...* John 1:14

2. Jesus is **First Born** (pre-eminent) vs 15

*Vs 15.. The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn (ο(πρωτοτοκος) over all creation*

- ◆ is an indication of a position or honor—pre-eminent—rather than an actual order of birth. Some people today just give Jesus “prominence”, but not “pre-eminence”..

3. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ vs 16...

*for by Him all things were created vs 16 (Also John 1:3.. Through Him all things were made)*

- ◆ **There are more atheists in Australia now than ever before..However, consider this:** The near two metres of DNA coiled inside everyone of our body’s 100 trillion cells contains a four letter chemical alphabet that spells out precise assembly instructions for all the proteins from which our body is made. Dr. Stephen Meyer “From the evidence of genetics and biology we can infer the existence of a Mind that’s far greater than our own – a conscious, purposeful, rational, intelligent designer who’s amazingly creative”



- ◆ Just the other day I was listening to the amazing singing of the Rufous Whistler .. How can such a small bird produce such volume and how can there be such complexity and beauty in it’s repertoire of notes?

- ◆ Professor Stuart Burgess, author of “Hallmarks of Design” writes “*Even though song birds are very small they are able to produce a powerful sound that can carry for long distances. The sound producing organ of the bird is called the “syrinx”. It is the equivalent of the human voice box or larynx. Like the larynx the syrinx contains delicate membranes which vibrate and generate soundwaves when air from the lungs passes over them*”. Humans have one set of vibrating membranes in the larynx, birds have two sets of membranes in the syrinx. “*Each of these voice mechanisms has independent nerve connections with the brain so that the (song) bird can simultaneously produce different sounds from each voice*”. (Catchpoole and Slater, “Bird Song” Cambridge University Press)



Rufous Whistler  
—near our home

- Incredible complexity like this cannot be produced by Darwinian chance random process. There is an amazing Designer behind it all. The Bible says: *For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.* Romans 1:20..

- The portrait of the Creator that emerges from the scientific data is uncannily consistent with the description of the Creator spelled out in the pages of the Bible.. See creation.com website. Scientists tell us that the human brain has as many as 100 billion neurones and with around 1000 connections per neurone this leads to near 100 trillion connections in the brain. The Bible tells us, We are fearfully and wonderfully made Psalm 139:14. Professor Andy C. McIntosh: *May many see that the argument from design shouts powerfully of the Creator who spans the Heavens and yet stooped to become Man, in order to be our Saviour..*

- ◆ What does recent science show? Science and faith are not at \_\_\_\_\_. Science when done right points powerfully to the existence of a God who matches the God of the Bible.

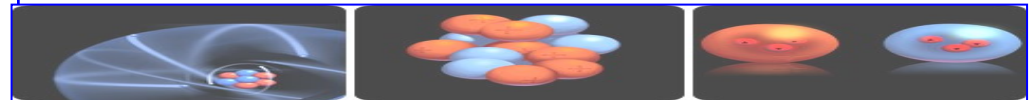
- ◆ Affirmation of Colossians 1:16... *For by Him (Jesus Christ) all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him.* (purpose). Praise and thanksgiving to Jesus Christ—Creator, Redeemer, King of kings and Lord of lords

4. Jesus is **Owner**

vs 16... *all things created by Him and for Him*

- ◆ When it comes to Creation, Jesus Christ is the primary cause (He planned it), the instrumental cause (He produced it), and the final cause (He did it for His own pleasure) - this is a direct rebuttal of some of the false Gnostic teachings .. (1 Corinthians 6:19)

5. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ vs 17



.... *In Him all things hold together*

- ◆ In some incomprehensible way (to us) our moment-by-moment existence depends on His gracious sustenance of every electron, every atom, every molecule and every spiritual entity as well. We are safe when we place our trust in Him and put our whole lives into His hands!

6. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ of the church vs 18

*And He is the Head of the body, the church vs 18*

- ◆ There are many images of the church in the New Testament, the “Body of Christ” is foundational (Rom. 12:4ff; 1 Cor. 12:14; Eph. 4:8–16 ). The “Body of Christ,” is composed of all true believers. When a person trusts Christ, he/she is immediately baptized by the Holy Spirit into this Body—the “Body of Christ”.( 1 Cor. 12:12–13 ).