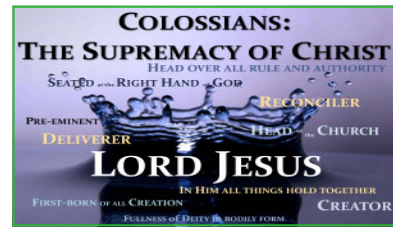


## Who is Jesus? ... Colossians 1:13 -23

- ◆ “Who is Jesus Christ?” If you asked people on the street who Jesus is you would get a huge range of replies eg.. “He’s a good man isn’t He?”... Others would say, “He is a miracle worker”, Someone else would say “He is deluded”, or “I have never heard of Him”. Other’s “He is legend”.. Someone might say, “He is Son of God—you know, like an angel”..



- Many people today have a really messed up idea as to who Jesus is. Even some people in some church are not certain about this. The Apostle Paul wrote a letter from his gaol cell, to the church in Colossae who were confused about the identity of Jesus. They were messed up by gnosticism (secret knowledge beyond the Bible) which denied Jesus as God and Saviour, like many today.
- ◆ In this world of turmoil and change and Covid-19 it is essential that we have a correct understanding of Jesus... Who He really is? Stephen Hawking, world renowned cosmologist died 2 years ago. Hawking described himself as an atheist and about his beliefs concerning life after death he said: “I regard the brain as a computer which will stop working when its components fail. There is no heaven or afterlife for broken down computers. That is a fairy story for people afraid of the dark” . The negative response of an atheist. No hope, no future. Let’s go to the Bible.

**For the follower of Jesus here are four things we can be eternally grateful for...**

### I. My \_\_\_\_\_

1. Jesus rescued us. Vs 13.. *Jesus has rescued us from the dominion of darkness* (Remember the incident whereby the 12 Thai boys and their coach were rescued from the cave they were trapped in? - they expressed huge gratitude to their rescuers)
2. Jesus “transferred” us Vs 13... *brought us into the Kingdom of the Son...*
3. Jesus redeemed (bought us back) 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*.. Jesus forgives us on the basis of our confess of sin and repentance... 1 John 1:9.. *If we confess* & Acts 3:19

### II. 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, Jehovah’s Witnesses recognize the existence of Christ but say He is not the Son of God... 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 *For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Him*, and 2:9.. *For in Christ*...

## Eight 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,*

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

*Vs 15..the firstborn (πρωτοτοκος) creation over all*

- ◆ 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*

- ◆ **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”
- ◆ DNA – the most efficient information storage in the world. How does DNA point toward a



Creator? DNA is a message with content – it is a language – Just like English uses a 26 letter alphabet - DNA uses a 4 letter chemical alphabet. It is the specific written detailed instructions for how to build all the proteins in the human body.

- ◆ I am reminded of a statement by Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft, “*Human DNA is like a computer program but far, far more advanced than any software we have ever created*”. The implication of this statement is profound. Not chance random process but the capability of human minds (Genesis 1:26,27) has created the Windows 10 program. Even more so the incredible complexity of DNA can not be explained by evolutionary chance random process but only by Divine brilliance. In fact Human Genome scientist Dr Francis Collins describes DNA as the “*language of God*” such is its wonder and complexity.

- ◆ 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 200 billion neurones and with around 1000 connections per neurone this leads to near 200 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

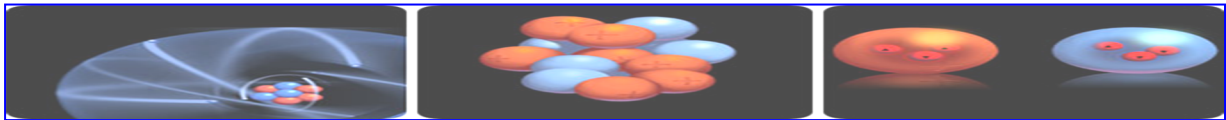
#### 4. Jesus is Owner

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 ..

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

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

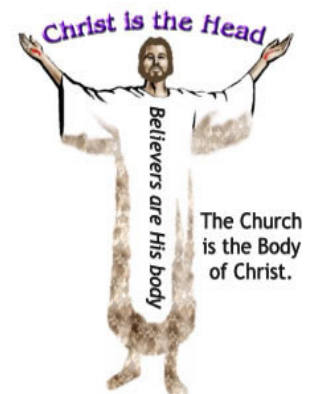


- ◆ In some incomprehensible way (to us) our moment-by-moment existence depends on His gracious sustenance of every electron, every atom, every molecule and every spiritual entity as well. We are safe when we place our trust in Him and put our whole lives into His hands!

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

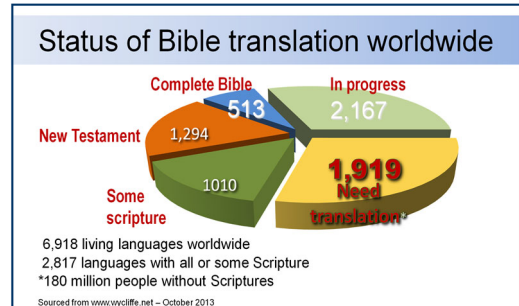
*And He is the Head of the body, the church vs 18*

- ◆ 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 ).



◆ Jesus said: *I will build My church.. Matthew 16:18. Missiologists tell us approximately 165,000 new followers of Jesus are added to the church each day!! (5000 die each week as martyrs!)*

◆ *Of over 7,000 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!!*



8. 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..**

Do you want Jesus to be in First Place? Then.... Three words....

- **Thanksgiving...** for what God has done for us
- **Truth...** don’t dethrone Jesus.. He is God, Creator, Saviour, Lord.
- **Trust ...** Him for today and for our Future.... Follow Him all the days of our lives...

Dr Billy Graham in contrast to Stephen Hawking said this: - *"Someday, you will read or hear that Billy Graham is dead. Don't you believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address. I will have gone into the presence of God".* A wonderful hope that we have in the risen Jesus—contrasting with the “age of anxiety” which so many atheistic people are experiencing. Believe+ receive = Become (Follower of Jesus) John 1:12..then we are truly “set free”.. John 8:32.