

I Now Rejoice in My Suffering

The entire Bible has one central theme - the Lordship of Christ.

This is the most important truth in the entire world, that Jesus is the eternal God.

1. Jesus was in the _____.

John 1:1-3, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Jesus has no birthday or entry point into the world. He always has been. We see this again in Christ's own words when He says before Abraham was, I am. For Jesus to say that He predates Abraham is for Him to claim headship over His people.

2. Jesus is with us _____.

Throughout the New Testament we see the concept of abiding in Christ or being in Christ.

A. Romans 8:1, There is _____ to those who are in Christ...who walk according to the Spirit.

B. 2 Corinthians 5:17, If anyone is in Christ, he is a _____.

C. John 10:28-29, Christ gives _____, no one is able to snatch us out of the Father's hand.

3. Christ is _____.

Hebrews 7:23-25, Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. **24** But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.

25 Therefore He is also able to save [h]to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

The deity of Christ is a fundamental principle of the Christian faith. If Jesus isn't God, everything that you believe about the Bible is a lie and we're all fools for following Him. But it is easy to see from Scripture that Christ is the same as the Father - existing before the beginning, Lord over our present, and securing our eternal future.

1. Christ, the means for reconciliation

Colossians 1:19-20, For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell, **20** and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

2. The point of the life and death of Christ -> to present me as holy in the sight of God.

Colossians 1:21-22, **21** And you, who once were 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 blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

- A life of faith, dedicated to the gospel, is the key to a blameless presentation.

Colossians 1:23, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

- Every creature under heaven has heard the cry of the gospel.

Throughout Scripture we see the ways that God has revealed Himself to us.

1. Through _____ (Psalm 19, the heavens declare the glory of God.)
2. Through our _____ (Eccl 3:11, he has written eternity on our hearts.)
3. Through _____ (John 1:14, the Word became flesh and dwelled among us.)

Sometimes your suffering isn't for _____.

Joseph suffered for years before the purpose was revealed.

Rarely is your suffering for you - it's so that others can know the _____.

Colossians 1: Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. **29** To this *end* I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

To sum up Colossians 1, Paul reiterates the purpose of all believers: to preach Christ to all people. We preach His message with the mission of helping to present others to the Father as holy.

Conclusion:

Are you abiding in Christ?

Are you blameless in the sight of God?