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# Sermon Notes

January 11, 2015

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

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## Christ In You... Him We Proclaim

Colossians 1:27-28

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

<sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, <sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. <sup>24</sup> Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, <sup>25</sup> of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, <sup>26</sup> the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. <sup>27</sup> To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

## THE Question

- ❖ *Who do you say that I am?* (Matt 16:15)
  - Peter's answer (Matthew 16:16)
  - John's answer (John 1:1, 14)
  - Paul's answer (Colossians 1:15, 1 Timothy 2:5)
  - Thomas' answer (John 20:28)
- ❖ How Jesus describe Himself?
  - the bread of life
  - the light of the world
  - the door
  - the good shepherd
  - the resurrection and the life
  - the way, and the truth, and the life
  - the true vine
- ❖ Who do you say Jesus is?
  - there is nothing more important in life than your answer to this question
  - the mission and ministry of our congregation is organized around the answer to this question
- ❖ To know Christ and to make Him known
  - there is a vertical and horizontal dimension to our relationship with Christ [the cross!]
  - Jesus' prayer (John 17:25-26)

## To Know Christ

- ❖ As God's people it is imperative for us to keep a close watch over ourselves, insuring that we adhere to true, Biblical teaching about Christ
  - this has been and will be true of every era of the church's history
  - the truth of who Jesus is has been challenged since the church's beginning
  - the time in which we live is no different than the early days of Christianity
- ❖ Colossae
  - a melting pot of religious and philosophical traditions (syncretism)
  - Paul wants to ensure that we will not be deceived by fine sounding arguments... that we will not be taken captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy
- ❖ The presence of Christ in us protects us and insures that we can know Him and that we can keep on knowing Him better and better
  - "Christ in us" protects us from hollow and deceptive philosophies (2:8)
  - Christ defines Himself and eliminates any need to make guesses, have vague notions, or attempt to fill in the blanks for Him
  - Studying Colossians fills our heads and hearts with truth about Christ

## To Make Him Known

- ❖ Knowing Christ is not an end in itself, it is a platform for making Him known & letting Him live His life through us
- ❖ We proclaim Christ both by warning and teaching others
  - **warning** = offering encouragement and exhortation in view of sin and coming punishment
  - **teaching** = imparting positive truth (Matthew 28:19-20)
  - these goals need to be accomplished with **all wisdom**
- ❖ The goal of all this is ***that we may present everyone mature in Christ***

## Personal Application

1. Are you excited by the prospect of knowing Christ and making Him known?
2. Are you ever in danger of thinking you already know "enough" about Christ?
3. Does "Christ in you" fuel your hope of glory and your eternal expectations?
4. Does "Christ in you" fuel your desire to proclaim His person and the excellence of His mercy, love, and grace to others?