

Message Three

One Way—the Cross of Christ

Scripture Reading: Col. 1:20-22; 2:11-15

- I. **Christ, the unique person, is versus all things, and the cross, the unique way, is versus all ways—Col. 1:20.**
- II. **The one person—Christ—is the center of the universe, and the one way—the cross—is the center of God’s government—1 Cor. 2:2; 1:17-18, 23; Gal. 6:14:**
 - A. God governs everything by the cross and deals with everything by the cross—Col. 1:20; 2:14-15.
 - B. By the cross God has dealt with all the negative things in the universe, and He is still governing everything through the cross—Eph. 2:14-16.
- III. **The book of Colossians teaches us that in the church life Christ must be all in all; everything that is not Christ must go to the cross—1:18; 3:10-11:**
 - A. Through the cross we need to become nothing, to have nothing, and to be able to do nothing.
 - B. If we avoid the cross, what we are, what we have, and what we can do will become a substitute for Christ—1 Cor. 1:17-18, 23.
- IV. **“Through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross—through Him, whether the things on the earth or the things in the heavens”—Col. 1:20:**
 - A. Because of the rebellion of Satan, the archangel, and the angels who followed, the heavens were contaminated; therefore, not only things on the earth but also things in the heavens needed to be reconciled to God—v. 20b.
 - B. As sinners, we needed redemption, and as enemies, we needed reconciliation—vv. 14, 21-22.
- V. **“Wiping out the handwriting in ordinances, which was against us, which was contrary to us; and He has taken it out of the way, nailing it to the cross”—2:14:**
 - A. *Ordinances* refers to the ordinances of the ceremonial law with its rituals, which are the forms or ways of living and worship—Eph. 2:15.
 - B. *Nailing it to the cross* means to abolish the law of commandments in ordinances.
- VI. **“Stripping off the rulers and the authorities, He made a display of them openly, triumphing over them in it”—Col. 2:15:**
 - A. Activities involving Christ, God, and the evil angelic rulers and authorities were brought to a focus on the cross; thus, the cross became God’s eternal, central, and unique way—vv. 14-15:
 1. By His crucifixion Christ labored to accomplish redemption, and God the Father was working to judge sin and nail the law to the cross—v. 14.
 2. At the same time, the evil rulers and authorities were busy in their attempt to frustrate the work of God and Christ, pressing in close to God and Christ; thus, a warfare was raging at the cross.
 - B. God openly made a display of the evil angelic rulers and authorities on the cross and triumphed over them in it, putting them to shame—v. 15.