

Advent: Reasons to Celebrate

Colossians 1:15-20

Read Colossians 1:15-20 together:

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** 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. **17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** 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. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

- ? What are some celebratory events in your life?
- ? What makes them worthy of celebration?
- ? What part of celebrating the birth of Jesus do you enjoy the most?

"The gospel message does not center in a philosophy, a doctrine, or a religious system. It centers in Jesus Christ, the Son of God" (Warren W. Wiersbe).

Context:

Jesus, the eternal Son of God, is the inception, constitution, reconciliation, and consummation of human history. Christmas is a time to celebrate not only the incarnation, but the entirety of the fullness of Christ.

- ? What are some ways you can celebrate Jesus each day of the year?

Paul's letter to the Colossians is a message of Christ's sufficiency, gospel purity, and Christian humility. These three concepts are as relevant today as they were then.

Content:

God is with us. God is for us. God is in us. God is pleased with us. God is not hidden. He's clearly revealed in his creation and in his Word. Jesus, the Son, is the exact image of God the Father. Jesus has all the rights of the first-born son.

- ? What are the rights of the first-born Son of God?
- ? What are your rights as a reborn child in God's family?
- ? Knowing your rights, what should your response be towards the unbelieving world? Towards the church?
- ? Is God pleased with your spiritual disciplines? (e.g., charitable deeds, prayer, and fasting.)
- ? Is there any aspect of your life God isn't pleased with?

Application:

Jesus held nothing back. He emptied himself, humbling himself to death, even death on a cross. He sought only to please his Father. This is cause for great celebration but also great devotion, determination, and application.

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Hebrews 1:3

- ? Jesus is a peacemaker. How can you be a peacemaker in the likeness of Christ?
- ? Jesus died for you. What ways can you die to yourself for him?
- ? What hinders you from inviting people to church?
- ? Who are you going to invite to church between now and the next time you meet with your Small Group? How will you invite them? Will you call them, text them, or have a face-to-face conversation?
- ? What gifts has the Holy Spirit given you? Are you actively exercising them for the edification of the church?

As Berean celebrates Christ, please pray for ways to share the Good News with others - praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.