**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Jesus, the One and Only |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Colossians 1:15-21 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2314 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. It is not enough to simply believe in one god.
      1. If we believe in one god, and he’s the wrong god, then that is doubly dangerous.
   2. There is only one true God.
      1. He is Jehovah, the triune God of the Bible.
   3. Many people today want to make Jesus just one among many.
      1. For example, they claim that He is just one of the ways to Heaven.
   4. Out of the billions of people who have ever lived, only a handful of them have made a lasting, dramatic imprint upon society.
      1. But there is one person who stands head and shoulders above all others, and His name is Jesus.
         1. Jesus, who is more than a man, has received more attention, devotion, criticism, and opposition than anyone who has ever lived.
         2. Every recorded word that Jesus Christ ever said has been studied, scrutinized, dissected, and compared.
         3. More than twenty centuries after Jesus Christ was here on this Earth, literally millions are studying His Word.
            1. People are thinking about the significance of His words and His actions.
   5. Jesus Christ lived in a tiny place called Bethlehem about two thousand years ago.
      1. His very birth divides all history.
         1. A.D., Anno Domini, means “The year of our Lord.”
         2. B.C. means “Before Christ.”
      2. He never wrote a book that we know of, yet the books that have been written about Him would fill the libraries of this world.
      3. He never painted a picture or carved a sculpture that we know of, yet He has been the inspiration behind the greatest art of the world.
      4. He never wrote a song that we know of, yet millions sing the many songs of Heaven based in Jesus.
      5. He never raised an army that we know of, but He has an army of followers.
         1. Followers who are not willing to kill others for Him but are willing to die for Him, to live for Him, and to share His love.
      6. His travels were limited as far as we know, never traveling outside the land of Israel.
         1. Yet, around the world, the sun does not set on people who are worshipping our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
      7. He started with only a handful of followers, yet over 30% of the world population say they believe in Jesus Christ.
      8. He only taught for three years, yet for two thousand years, we are still studying every word that the Lord Jesus said.
      9. He had no formal education, but universities and seminaries have been founded in His name.
   6. Kenneth Scott Latourette: “Jesus has had more effect on the history of mankind than any other of its race who ever existed. To explain Jesus is impossible. To ignore Jesus is disastrous. To deny Him is fatal.”
      1. We need to understand who Jesus Christ is.
   7. Colossians 1:19
   8. Jesus is not to be prominent in our lives; He is to be pre-eminent.
      1. Jesus doesn’t just show the way; He is the way.
      2. Jesus doesn’t just give life; He is the life.
      3. Jesus doesn’t just tell the truth; He is the truth.
   9. In today’s message, we will learn three specific things about the Lord Jesus Christ.
      1. He is the one and only.
2. jesus alone reveals the father
   1. Colossians 1:15
      1. This passage is speaking of Jesus.
      2. God Himself is invisible.
      3. God in His essence is Spirit.
      4. He is un-seeable, unknowable, and unapproachable, unless we have some way to come to Him, someone to bring us to Him, and someone to reveal God the Father to us.
         1. Reason is not enough.
         2. Religion is not enough.
         3. Ritual is not enough.
         4. Jesus Christ Himself is the one who makes the invisible God knowable.
            1. Jesus is the image of the invisible God.
            2. We can never fully know God the Father unless we know Him through God the Son.
      5. In this passage, the word “image” is the Greek word “icon,” which means “an exact representation.”
         1. Jesus is God in human flesh.
   2. Colossians 2:9
      1. The Godhead consists of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
   3. According to Scripture, the only way to know God as Father is through Jesus Christ.
      1. Matthew 11:27
         1. Jesus said that we cannot know God unless He reveals God the Father to us.
   4. When Jesus went to the temple as a twelve-year-old boy, He was questioned by the learned theologians.
      1. They might have asked Him his age.
         1. He could have said, “On my mother’s side, I am twelve-years-old.”
            1. “On my Father’s side, I’m older than my mother and just as old as my Father.”

There never was a time when Jesus was not; He has always been.

* + - 1. On His mother’s side, He got thirsty.
         1. On His Father’s side, He created the oceans and every brook, every lake, and spring.
         2. Revelation 21:6
      2. On His mother’s side, He got hungry.
         1. On His Father’s side, He fed five thousand people.

Matthew 14:17-21

He is the bread of life.

John 6:35

* + - 1. On His mother’s side, He lived in poverty and was homeless.
         1. On His Father’s side, He created the universe and owns the cattle on a thousand hills.

Psalm 50:10

* + - 1. On His mother’s side, with a broken heart, He wept at the tomb of Lazarus.
         1. On His Father’s side, He said, “Lazarus, come forth,” and Lazarus came out of the grave.

John 11:43

* 1. Jesus is the express image of the invisible God.
     1. He could say, “*He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father*.”
        1. John 14:9
  2. Jesus is called the firstborn.
     1. Colossians 1:15
        1. The word “firstborn” might imply to some people that He was created.
        2. In this passage, though, the word “firstborn” does not refer to time but to position or status.
           1. It doesn’t mean that Jesus was the first being ever created.
           2. He is the one who created all things.
     2. Colossians 1:16
        1. He could not be created if He was the one who created all things.
           1. Jesus never had a beginning.

There was never a time when Jesus was not.

* + 1. Jesus is before all things and above all things, whether things in Heaven, things on Earth, powers or principalities.
    2. Firstborn refers to His status; He is over everything.
    3. Psalm 89:27
       1. This speaks of status.
  1. He is King of kings and Lord of lords.
  2. Jesus alone reveals the Father.

1. jesus alone rules the universe
   1. Colossians 1:16-17
      1. Not only does Jesus reveal the Father, but He also rules the universe.
   2. Jesus is the power of creation.
      1. Jesus made everything.
      2. The little baby in Matthew 1 is the mighty God of Genesis 1.
         1. He is the same God who created it all.
      3. The Bible teaches against evolution.
         1. Evolutionists believe that “nothing times nobody equals everything.”
         2. We cannot say that it all just happened and that we also believe in Jesus.
            1. We cannot have it both ways.
            2. It didn’t just happen; Jesus created it all.
      4. If we do not believe in the creation by the Lord Jesus Christ, then we have three problems:
         1. We have a problem with the Scriptures.
            1. If we cannot believe the Scriptures when they tell us from whence we came, then how can we trust the Scriptures when they tell us where we are going?

We need to be concerned not only about the origin of the species, but also about the destiny of the species.

* + - 1. We will have trouble with salvation.
         1. If we believe that man emerged from some primordial ooze, then we do not believe in a creation.
         2. If we do not believe in a creation, then we do not believe that man was made perfect and fell into sin.

If we don’t believe in a Garden of Eden, then we don’t believe in a fall.

* + - * 1. If we believe Genesis 3 is a myth, then John 3 that says we must be born again is a farce.

If we do not believe in a direct creation, then we are going to have trouble with salvation.

* + - 1. We will have trouble with society.
         1. When young people are taught that they come from animals, then we should not be surprised when they begin to act like animals.

An animal lives for three things:

Self-gratification

Self-preservation

Self-propagation

Most people are living for these things today because they do not understand that they are made in the image of God.

* + - * 1. We see today an animal rights movement that believes that animals have the same rights as human beings.

But they do not.

Animals are distinct.

God gave man a body, soul, and spirit.

He did not give animals a spirit.

Animals do not know God.

They cannot worship and pray.

Cruelty to animals is wrong, but do not get the idea that man is just an intelligent animal.

Man is made in the image of Almighty God.

* + 1. Random and impersonal chance are not going to create complexity and design.
       1. A human cell, which has to be seen under a microscope, is so complex in that it contains chromosomes, which contain genes.
       2. Encoded in these genes is DNA, which contains a detailed description for every part of our bodies.
       3. Each cell is so complex that not one part of the cell could exist without the other part.
          1. One cannot come from the other, and it cannot come in stages.

It all must come together.

* + - 1. Jesus is the one who created it all.
  1. Jesus is the preserver of creation.
     1. Colossians 1:16-17
        1. He is the glue of the galaxies.
     2. We often hear people talk about natural law.
        1. There is no natural law.
           1. Laws of nature do not exist.
        2. They are God’s laws that nature obeys.
     3. By Jesus, all things consist.
        1. He is the one who fuels the sun with power.
        2. He is the one who veils the moon with beauty.
        3. He is the one who keeps the stars in their courses.
     4. The speed of light is 186,282 miles per second.
        1. A beam of light travels around the Earth 7 times in 1 second.
        2. It takes 8 ½ minutes for light from the sun to reach Earth.
           1. The sun is 93 million miles away.
        3. It takes 4 ½ years to travel from the nearest star.
     5. Jesus holds it all together.
  2. Jesus is the purpose of all creation.
     1. Colossians 1:16
     2. What is the world coming to?
        1. It is coming to Jesus.
     3. What is the universe coming to?
        1. It is coming to the Lord Jesus Christ.
     4. Eastern religions teach that life is cyclical; that it goes around in a cycle.
        1. They believe in reincarnation, that a person keeps getting born until he gets it right.
        2. This is not what the Bible teaches.
           1. The Bible teaches that life and history are linear, and we are moving toward a climax.

We are getting close to the climax of history where Jesus Christ is crowned King of kings and Lord of lords.

* 1. All things were made by Him and for Him.
  2. All things are controlled by the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. jesus alone reconciles the lost
   1. There is no other way to be saved apart from the Lord Jesus Christ.
   2. Colossians 1:20-21
   3. Jesus is the one who created it all, preserves it all, is the express image of Almighty God, the firstborn, the Lord of lords and the King of kings.
      1. He stepped out of Heaven and died on a cross.
   4. When we see His deity, then we will understand the greatness of His death.
      1. His deity makes His death meaningful.
      2. His death makes His deity knowable.
   5. The blood that was poured out at Calvary was the blood of the very Son of God.
      1. Jesus is the God-man; God in human flesh.
         1. He was as much man as if He were not God at all.
         2. He was as much God as if He were not man at all.
         3. Not half God and half man.
         4. Not all God and no man.
         5. Not all man and no God.
      2. The God-man came to Earth, was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, was nailed on a cross, and died for us.
         1. The one who created every seed, every shrub, every tree, and every limb was hung on a tree, on a cross.
         2. The one who scooped out a place for the seas and created every brook and every spring was the one who said, “I thirst.”
            1. John 19:28
         3. The one who created the sun with a word was the one who suffered under that sun on the cross.
         4. He was the one who created the universe with a word; He spoke and it was so.
         5. When Jesus died, He didn’t just speak and say, “Be forgiven.”
            1. Instead, by the blood of His cross, He paid the sin debt and became both just and justifier of those who believe in Him.
   6. Jesus never overlooked sin.
      1. One-half of one sin will never be overlooked.
      2. Sin must be paid for or punished.
      3. Our sins will be either pardoned in Christ or punished in Hell, but they will never be overlooked.
   7. God is a holy God.
      1. He knew, in order for us to be redeemed and reconciled, that without the shedding of blood, there would be no remission of sin.
         1. Romans 6:23
   8. On one side there is His deity, and on the other side is His humanity.
      1. We are on the side with His humanity.
         1. We are humans, and we are sinful.
      2. On the other side is Almighty God, and He is holy and righteous.
      3. And between a holy God and sinful man, there is a chasm of sin that separates man from Almighty God.
      4. Jesus reconciles and builds a bridge that will span this chasm.
         1. On one side, the Lord Jesus Christ puts down the foundation of His deity.
            1. He is God!
         2. On the other side, He puts down the foundation of His humanity.
            1. He is man.
            2. He is taking our place and dying for us.
         3. With the rough-hewn timbers of a cross, He reconciles God and man.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. Jesus is the one and only.
   2. Jesus is the one who reveals the Father.
   3. Jesus is the one who rules the universe.
   4. Jesus is the one who reconciles the lost.
   5. Is Jesus your Savior and Lord?
   6. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   7. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16