**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Who Is Jesus? |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Colossians 1:12-21 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2264 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Jesus Christ is the Son of God.
   2. Of all the billions of people who have ever walked the Earth, only a handful have made a lasting impression and actually changed the world.
      1. Of that handful of people, there is one who stands above the rest, and that is Jesus.
         1. More attention, devotion, criticism, adoration and opposition have been given to Jesus than to anyone else.
      2. The Lord Jesus lived in a tiny land over 2000 years ago, and yet His birth divides the centuries.
         1. BC - “Before Christ.”
         2. AD - “Anno Domini,” “In the Year of our Lord.”
      3. Jesus never wrote a book that we know of, and yet millions of volumes have been written about Him.
      4. He never painted a picture as far as we know, and yet some of the world’s greatest art, dramas, music and literature have Jesus of Nazareth as their source.
      5. Jesus never raised an army as far as we know, and yet multiplied millions have died for Him.
      6. He never traveled far from His birth place, and yet His testimony has gone around the world.
      7. He had only a handful of followers during His ministry on the Earth; and currently more than 30% of the world’s population claim Christianity, the world’s largest religious grouping.
   3. To explain Jesus Christ is impossible, to ignore Him is disastrous and to reject Him is fatal.
      1. We need to understand who Jesus Christ is.
         1. To know Him is to love Him.
         2. To love Him is to trust Him.
         3. To trust Him is to be radically and eternally changed.
   4. Human speech is too limited to describe Him, the human mind is too small to comprehend Him, and the human heart can never completely absorb who Jesus Christ is.
   5. Colossians 1:12-13
      1. God does have a Son, and His name is Jesus.
      2. The Lord Jesus has a kingdom.
   6. Colossians 1:14-21
      1. The Lord Jesus Christ does not want a place in your life.
      2. He does not wish for prominence in your life.
      3. He deserves and demands pre-eminence.
2. JESUS REVEALS THE FATHER (Colossians 1:15)
   1. Jesus is the image of the invisible God.
      1. God is Spirit and invisible.
         1. The visible Jesus makes the invisible God known.
   2. How are we going to know God?
      1. Not by reason, religion or by ritual.
      2. We know God only by revelation.
         1. Jesus Christ has come to reveal God to us.
         2. We can never fully know God the Father apart from God the Son.
   3. Colossians 1:15
      1. The word “image” is the Greek word for “icon.”
         1. The Greek word for “icon” means “an exact representation.”
         2. Jesus Christ is the express image of the invisible God.
            1. He is the “icon” of God.
         3. Colossians 2:9
            1. All of God was in Bethlehem’s babe.
         4. Matthew 11:27
            1. No one knows the Father except through Jesus.
            2. We cannot know the Father unless Jesus introduces us.
         5. How can the finite understand the infinite?
            1. Not by reason but by revelation.
            2. Any other god that we worship is the god of our guesses, which is a form of idolatry.
            3. We cannot conjure up some god to worship.
            4. Jesus came to reveal the Father.
         6. John 14:6
            1. Jesus is not “a” way; He is “the” way.
            2. Jesus is not “a” life; He is “the” life.
            3. God was manifest in the flesh.

On His mother’s side, Jesus got thirsty.

On His Father’s side, He was the “water of life.”

Revelation 21:6

On His mother’s side, Jesus got hungry.

On His Father’s side, He fed five thousand with a little boy’s lunch.

John 6:1-13

On His mother’s side, He wept at the grave of Lazarus.

On His Father’s side, He raised Lazarus from the dead.

John 11:30-44

* + 1. The word “firstborn” does not imply a beginning.
       1. Jesus never had a beginning; there was never a time when Jesus was not.
          1. John 8:58

Jesus is the great I AM.

He has always existed.

* + - * 1. He didn’t have His beginning at Bethlehem.
      1. The word “firstborn” speaks of honor and privilege.
         1. Psalm 89:27
      2. “Firstborn” speaks of Jesus’ exalted position.
         1. Colossians 1:17

He could not be created.

All things were created by Him.

Everything was made by Jesus and for Jesus.

1. JESUS RULES THE FUTURE (Colossians 1:16-20)
   1. Jesus not only has the whole world in His hands, but He also has the past, present and future in His hands.
      1. This world is coming to Jesus.
         1. It will all climax in the Lord Jesus Christ.
   2. Jesus is the power of creation.
      1. Colossians 1:16
      2. The little baby in Matthew 1 is the mighty God of Genesis.
      3. There was nothing made without Him.
         1. John 1:3
      4. Evolution is the next best guess for those who do not know the Word of God.
         1. If you believe in evolution, then you have a problem with the Scriptures.
            1. If the Bible cannot tell us from whence we came, how can it tell us where we are headed?
         2. If you believe in evolution, then you have a problem with salvation.
            1. If there is no creation, then there is no Adam and Eve, no Garden of Eden and no fall into sin.
            2. If there is no fall into sin, then there is no need for a new birth.
            3. John 3:7

If Genesis 3 is a myth, then John 3 is a farce.

* + - 1. If you believe in evolution, then you have problems with society.
         1. When we teach children that they come from animals, then it shouldn’t surprise us when they begin to act like animals.
  1. Jesus is the preserver of creation.
     1. Colossians 1:17
        1. The word “consist” means “stick together.”
        2. Jesus is the glue of the galaxies.
           1. He is the one who keeps it all from falling apart and from coming apart.

Jesus is the one who guides the planets in their orbits.

Jesus is the one who placed all of the stars.

* + - * 1. There is no natural law; it is the law of Jesus that nature obeys.
      1. It is by Jesus that all things consist.
    1. Isaiah 40:26
       1. Jesus has named all of the stars.
  1. Jesus is the purpose of creation.
     1. Colossians 1:16
        1. All things were created by and for the Lord Jesus.
        2. The Greek word “for” is a preposition that speaks of direction; it means “moving in the direction.”
           1. Eastern religions are circular, believing that everything goes round and round.
           2. The Bible is linear: we are headed in a specific direction.

We are moving to the time when the kingdoms of this world will become the kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ.

Matthew 6:10

* + 1. Isaiah 33:22
       1. There are three parts of our government.
          1. The judiciary - the judge.
          2. The legislative - the lawgiver.
          3. The executive - the king.
       2. Jesus is all three.
          1. He is our Judge, Lawgiver and King.
       3. Everything is headed to Jesus.
          1. It is all for Him.
          2. He is the key to the mystery of history.

And history has a date with Deity.

1. JESUS RECONCILES THE FALLEN (Colossians 1:18-21)
   1. Jesus came to Earth to reconcile God and man.
      1. This Jesus who declares the Father and who dominates the future is the same Jesus who delivers the fallen.
   2. Jesus, who made everything, hung on a cross for us.
      1. The one who made every seed, every limb and every tree died upon a tree.
      2. The one who made every ocean, river and stream said on the cross, “I thirst.”
      3. The one who flung the sun into space is the one who was blistered by the sun as He hung on the cross.
      4. It is His deity that makes His death meaningful, and it is His death that makes His deity knowable.
   3. When Jesus created the universes, He did so with His Word.
      1. When He saved us, He did so with His blood.
   4. Jesus is the Son of God, revealed in the pages of His Holy Word.
      1. On the cross, He took sinful man with one hand and holy God with the other hand and reconciled God and man.
         1. He took our sins to the cross and there made peace with the blood of the cross.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. We, ourselves, cannot make peace with God.
      1. Jesus made peace with the blood of His cross.
      2. We need to enter into that peace by faith and trust the Lord Jesus.
   2. Does Jesus Christ have the pre-eminence in your life?
      1. Jesus should always be number one in our lives.
      2. If He does not have the pre-eminence in our lives, then what right do we have to call ourselves a Christian?
   3. Do you know with certainty that if you died today, you would go straight to Heaven?
      1. Have you repented of your sins?
      2. Have you trusted Jesus?
      3. Does the Spirit of God bear witness with your spirit that you are His child?
   4. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   5. 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