In Him in You (Colossians 1:9-18)

PART II (The Image of the Invisible God)

In Christ All Things Consist

"For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask **that you may be filled** with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and

for Him. **And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.** And **He is the head of the body**, the church, who is the beginning, **the firstborn** from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence." Colossians 1:9-18 NKJV

Colossians 1:9-18

"For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;" Colossians 1:9 NKJV

What reason?

- Colossians 1:1-8 gives us the reason: Faith, Love, Hope, Truth, Fruit, and Grace...
- Pauls says... "since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints;" Colossians 1:4, etc. etc. etc.
- Since we see what Christ it doing in you, we don't stop praying for you!
 - Praying what? ...that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;
- **<u>Filled with the knowledge of His will...</u>**
 - Ah, God's will. The age-old question. What is God's will?

Books can be written on such a question. But I will sum it up for us today with this! Get the wisdom and understanding of this...

Get a revelation of what is available to you!

 "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places," Ephesians 1:17-20 NKJV

Mater Set That you would give up everything else...

 ""Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it." Matthew 13:44-46 NKJV *"that you may walk worthy* of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy; giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light." Colossians 1:10-12 NKJV

So... here is what God is looking for in believers

- Walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, fruitful in every good work—You were saved by Faith because God gave you grace (power) to believe, and as a result, you are supposed to access that grace to do what God calls you do do (See Ephesians 2:1-10 and Romans 5:1-6; 12:1-2)! Obeying God by faith is the ONLY way to please God (see Hebrews 11:1-6).
- Increasing in the knowledge of God—you are not permitted to stay stagnant in your faith. You must continue to grow and mature. You are to mature in your faith life from born-again to adult, much like a human is born a child and grows into an adult. (See Hebrews 5:12-14 and 6:1-3).

- Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power—this is not something you can do in your own strength. You must access God's grace to do anything good for God. You cannot improve yourself or the world around you in any meaningful way outside of God's power working in you.
- Patience and longsuffering God's timing is everything.
 Even when you are doing everything "right", things always remain on God's timeline. Your job is to obey and God's job is to take care of everything else. Rest in that!
- ✓ Joy—joy is an internal satisfaction that comes from delighting in the Lord and trusting Him. Happiness in connected to external circumstances and successes. God does not guarantee your happiness; He does promise joy!
- Giving thanks to God—we have nothing without God.
 The very breath in our lungs come from Him. Thank Him in all times even when we are in the midst of trials. It's call the sacrifice of praise!
- He has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance— NEVER FORGET that it was HE who qualified us. We could not choose ourselves, or save ourselves, or ANYTHING ourselves. It's all HIM and our sole assignment is to use our guaranteed inheritance to fuel

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and inspire a life of radical-grace-empowered-faithbased-obedience to God!

 "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins." Colossians 1:13-14 NKJV

<u> Darkness to Light</u>

- This is the perspective by which you are to live life. We were dead in our trespasses and sins, and while we were dead, He sovereignly and unilaterally rescued us.
- The spirit world is real—the dark side and the light side, the kingdom of darkness and the kingdom of light.
- "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." Colossians 1:15 NKJV

<u>The Image of God!</u>

This is the most important issue of the day. We either submit to the idea that there is only ONE image of God, the One and Only God, or we don't.

What is that image?

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." **So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "**Be fruitful and multiply;** fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."" Genesis 1:26-28 NKJV

God who is ONE describes Himself as an "Us"

I The Father, Spirit, and Son

- Me makes man in His likeness, the image of an "Us"
 - He creates Adam as ONE (him) with the image of and"Us" (male and female He created them!)
- And then tells him to be fruitful and multiply (make child)—NOTICE THERE IS NO EVE YET!
- The Image of God (Father, Spirit, Son) in man is Adam (a Male, female and Child).
- However if you were an observer, all you would see is Adam, looking like a man (no woman or child).

Mow can we make visible what God is describing, that which we cannot yet see?

- "And the Lord God said, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him."" Genesis 2:18 NKJV
- "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man." Genesis 2:21-22 NKJV
 - It seems like Adam who is an "Us" is alone because all I can see is what looks like a man.
 - It's not good that you cannot see what is invisible inside of Adam, so God extracted what was in him already (the woman), took what was inside and made it visible on the outside, and presented her to him so he, and everyone else, could see her!
 - But just as God is One and is not meant to be seen as more than one God, but that those three character traits (Father, Spirit, Son) are all inside the ONE God...God had to ensure we would understand the same intention for humans who were CREATED in THAT IMAGE!

Mow do you do that? Marriage!

"And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because

she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become <u>one flesh</u>. And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed." Genesis 2:23-25 NKJV

- [Y'shua said] "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."" Matthew 19:4-6 NKJV
 - Man was always meant to be seen as One—the image of God, but so that the invisible qualities inside of Adam could be made visible, Eve was extracted and shown to us.
 - However, to stay one which was always God's intention, we have marriage, which takes that female and binds her the the male to the keep them one flesh!
 "They are no longer two but one flesh."
 - This is THE REASON for marriage! Can you see how critical marriage is? Without it, we fail to emulate the image of the ONE GOD!

- That is why Y'shua said, "Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female and...what God has joined together, let not man separate!"
 - "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." Colossians 1:15 and we are His... joint heir (exactly like Him)..."The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together." Romans 8:16-17 NKIV

And to fill the final piece of the human trinity!

- "Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord."" Genesis 4:1 NKJV
 - A child from the Lord—"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." Genesis 1:27 NKJV

Denying the Image of God!

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who

suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, **they became fools**, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of

their error which was due. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them." Romans 1:18-32 NKJV

- Let's break this down!
 - God is furious and will punish those who's suppress the following truth!
 - All men should know who the One God is because He showed it to the world by how He created man in His image! His image is inside them!
 - At creation He made him (man) in His image, (male and female) He created them! And those invisible attributes, the woman and child inside of Adam, he MADE
 VISIBLE, so there would be no doubt.

- And did this to show what was invisible inside the Godhead (Father, Spirit, Son).
- Why? So no human could ever have and excuse to deny the Image of God!
- But when man knows this and then denies this, they are robbing God of His glory and God will give man over to their useless, unprofitable, and foolish thinking. And He will allow their hearts to become dark.
- Eventually, God will give them over to complete identity confusion, men and women confusing sexually identity because they were so committed to denying the truth and embracing the lie!
- For this reason God gives them up to vile passions and homosexual lust and all the consequences that come with this arrogant denial of God's image.
- That is why Y'shua gave us <u>the reason</u> for a male and female to be unified in marriage..."*Have you not read* that *He who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,'* and said, '<u>For this reason</u> a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become <u>one flesh</u>'? So then, <u>they are no longer two but one flesh</u>. Therefore what God has

joined together, let not man separate."" Matthew 19:4-6 NKJV

- Because they choose to forget the ONLY image of God,
 God will eventually give them over to a debased mind
 —and the first sin on the LONG LIST is sexual
 immorality!
- God's righteous judgment will come on those who practice such things!
- *"For by Him all things were created* that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist." Colossians 1:16-17 NKJV
 - <u>Let's keep this simple...</u>
 - He was at creation and it was through Him all things were created.
 - **I** By all things—includes the spiritual and physical world.
- And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence." Colossians 1:18 NKJV
 - ☑ <u>The Head…</u>

 "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit." Ephesians 2:19-22 NKJV

☑ <u>The Firstborn…</u>

- *"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits* of those who have fallen asleep." I
 Corinthians 15:20 NKJV
- "But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect," Hebrews 12:22-23 NKJV

NEXT TEACHING

In Him in You—PART III (Colossians 1:19-23) (Preached to Every Creature Under Heaven)

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