

GCFSM SUNDAY BULLETIN

OCTOBER 6, 2024
BULLETIN ISSUE #40



SERMON OUTLINE

JESUS AS THE RECONCILER

COLOSSIANS 1:15-23 | REV. DON GUICO

The church in Colossae was facing a crisis in their belief system. They were combining elements of Judaism, paganism, and early Gnosticism to the teachings they received about Jesus. To counteract their syncretic beliefs, Paul emphasized in his letter the divinity of Jesus and His preeminence in all things, and affirmed His sufficiency for salvation.

In verses 15 to 17, Paul affirmed that Jesus is the perfect representation of God and He has supremacy and authority over all creation. Jesus is almighty as the Creator and sustainer of all creation. The mention of "thrones, dominions, rulers, or authorities" underscores His sovereignty over both spiritual powers and earthly authorities, effectively countering the fears that

may have arisen within the Colossian church regarding hostile spiritual and earthly forces. His preexistence and power to sustain all things further highlights His divinity as the attributes of omnipresence and omnipotence are solely reserved for God.

In verses 18 to 20, Paul affirmed Jesus' supremacy and authority over the church and further reinforced Jesus' divinity. Jesus established His ultimate authority in all realms when He defeated sin and death by His sacrifice on the cross and resurrection from the grave. His ministry of reconciliation not only brought the hope of resurrection to all who would believe in Him, but also restored peace between God and creation. As to "the fullness of God" in

Him, it depicts Jesus as the complete revelation of God to humanity, which directly counters the heresy that sought to diminish Jesus' divine nature.

In verses 21 to 23, Paul acknowledged the Colossians' previous state of alienation from God due to wickedness and sin, and highlighted the transformative power of Jesus' reconciliation. He challenged them to persevere in faith because perseverance is the appropriate response to the reality of their reconciliation. Holiness is, therefore, a necessity in the Christian life.

May we all persevere in our walk with Jesus and continue His ministry of reconciliation to the world. ✨

RECONCILED MISSIONS MONTH 2024

PATTY NERMAL

Last month, I, together with the Engaging Ministry leaders, were privileged to accompany Pastor Lito at the CB Global Conference in Japan. The conference was attended by other representatives of Conservative Baptist churches in other countries and we heard the reports of how God is moving mightily in the other nations. At the same time, we heard stories of difficulties and persecutions of Christians as they shared the gospel. Aside from the conference, we were also able to visit the ministry location of our partner missionary in Sendai and visit some tourist sites in Miyagi Prefecture. The things that really draw me to this country are their meek and humble people, natural sceneries and interesting culture. When we think of Japan, we think of it as a tourist destination. Unfortunately, many might be unaware or may have forgotten that less than 1% of the Japanese population is Christian. In a university with 10,000 students, only 8 are believers of Jesus. Japan is more than a tourist destination. If we are just intentional in recognizing its need of a Savior, we will be reminded that every aspect of Japan, whether it be its people, culture or natural wonders, is God's creation that He desires to be reconciled to Himself.

As we prioritize the well-being of all individuals, recognizing that

the church is made up of people who need spiritual growth and transformation, we are to be reminded that God's concern goes beyond just humans, it extends to all of life, including nature and culture. As we believe that God is the creator of all things, then as a church, we are to understand that His desire is to reconcile all things to Himself (Colossians 1:20). The salvific message of Jesus Christ is for the entirety of God's creation.

Missions, therefore, encompass all of God's creation. While we anticipate the coming of God's Kingdom, we must not neglect our current responsibility to care for the world. Human life, nature, and culture suffer from the effects of sin, yet we cannot remain indifferent to this destruction. Thus, this Missions Month, we will reflect on Christ's love for all creation and how as reconciled beings, we are to live out the gospel in our daily lives. The events for this Missions Month will focus on Christ's reconciliation of culture, His unwavering concern for human dignity and the call to defend life in all its forms, and how the Gospel calls us to care for the earth.

Missions Month Events

Reconciled: Christ and Culture
(MMD Seminar)
October 5, 2024 | 9:00am - 12:00pm

PARSON TO PERSON

Christ and Human Life
(Film Showing)
October 12, 2024 | 3:00 - 5:30pm

Christ and the City
(Cultural Exposure Trip with Next Gen)
October 19, 2024

Christ and Earthkeeping
(Missions Talk)
October 20, 2024 | 12:30 - 3:00pm

Missions Banquet
October 27, 2024 | 12:30 - 2:45pm

Our mission flows from love for God and all He created. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to witness through both words and acts of love for creation, protecting what God intended to be good and participating in His mission to reconcile all things. GCFSM has come a long way in being engaged in the mission of God. At present, more Growth Groups are now involved in missions and evangelism opportunities within their communities and even beyond. Our prayer is that the church will continue to proclaim and live out the Gospel, God's good news for every individual, culture, and all creation, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. ✨

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