

# Surpassing Everything

Colossians 1:15-23

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The journey of knowing God better is never short of threats, challenges and tears. While believing affects decisions, decisions also affects believing. We have a tendency to drift away from Christ in our journey of knowing Him better; we shift away from believing that Jesus surpasses everything.

The central question at the heart of Paul's letter to Colossae is: 'do you know Christ Jesus?' Paul's focus was to help the church know Christ Jesus, while not exhaustively, but particularly at His supremacy, preeminence and incomparable worth. He surpasses everything and holds all things together even amidst the treats and challenges we face.

We need to believe that

## I) He (Christ) is surpassing all creation

v15 – The image of Christ as the invisible God reveals for us that He is fully divine. Christ being the firstborn of all creation alludes to Him being fully man; the better Adam. Christ surpasses all creation because he is both fully man, and fully God. *"If anyone stands firm and right on this point, that Jesus Christ is true God and true man, who died and rose again for us, all the other articles of the Christian faith will fall in place for him and firmly sustain him."* – Martin Luther. We tend to lose Christ when we regard Him as creaturely. There is nothing in creation that is independent of and from Him (v16a). As firstborn, Christ is the ruler of all creation (Ps. 89), the universe and all of heaven (v.16b). Christ surpasses everything; there is nothing more powerful, purposeful and personal. Nothing is out of His reach; the goal of all things lie in relation to Him. Christ holds all things together (v17). Only when we believe that Christ surpasses everything that we can receive:

## II) His surpassing peace of the church

The gift of Christ's surpassing peace is only practical to us when He rules powerfully, purposefully and personally in our lives. Christ often uses His surpassing peace through the church. He is the head of the church and rules, by virtue, from the resurrection from the dead (v18). Christ has given the rule of His kingdom to the church. The rule of the church is accomplished through the ordained elders of the church. Since Christ is surpassing in His rule on earth, the governing of the church must also be distinct from the authority of the earth. Christ's surpassing peace to us is not just spiritual, but very practical. It is physical care through the church; becoming a member through the care of the elder shepherds. While no church elders are perfect, we can find comfort from the perfect headship of Christ in the church. The Lordship of the church is none others but Christ's in whom God's perfect knowledge, justice and love is found (v19). In the process of reconciliation to God, Christ offered Himself as the sacrifice; the peace offering (v20). Christ's surpassing peace is Him making peace with God and is practically found in His church. When we believe that Jesus is fully God and man, we receive

## III) His surpassing hope of the gospel

We can know and experience God as our true Saviour and Lord when we believe He is fully God and man. As a true Saviour, He is able to identify and bear our sins and yet, as He knew no sin, He rules over sin and reconciles us to God. Christ stands before God the Father and declares that we are now holy, cleansed, redeemed and set apart for Him (v22a). Christ has paid for our sins; we are above reproach; flawless and whole (v22b). It is the

surpassing hope of the gospel that will help us continue stable and steadfast (v23). *"Once you are aware that your main business here is to know God, most of life's problems fall into place on their own accord."* – J. I. Packer. The more accurately we know who Christ Jesus is, the more well equipped we will be to make wise decisions when we face trials and challenges. Don't stop knowing Christ! Pursue knowing Him and receive the surpassing peace of the church to press on to be steadfast in the surpassing hope of the gospel.