

Christian's Responsibility to Christ

Col. 1:18

Introduction:

- A. Our primary responsibility to Christ is to give Him the preeminence.
 - 1. The preeminence (first in rank or influence) of Christ, the theme of Colossians.
 - 2. The firstborn over all creation. (vv. 15-17)
 - 3. The firstborn from the dead. (v. 18).
- B. Our responsibility to give Christ preeminence in several areas of our lives is discussed in Colossians:

Discussion:

- I. We must Give Christ the Preeminence in *Our Salvation*.**
 - A. Only in Him we can be:
 - 1. Delivered from the power of darkness. (v. 13)
 - 2. Conveyed (translated) in the kingdom. (v. 13)
 - 3. Redeemed/forgiven of sins. (v. 14).
 - 4. Reconciled to God. (vv. 19-23).
 - B. Only in Christ we have hope of heaven. (1:3-5).
 - C. Our salvation and hope in Him are conditional. (1:23; 2:11-13; cf. Acts 2:38)
- II. We must Give Christ the Preeminence in *the Church*.**
 - A. He is the head of it. (1:18; 2:19).
 - 1. All authority comes from the head.
 - 2. His word must be final in all controversy.
 - B. He is to be glorified in it rather than man. (cf. Eph. 3:21).
- III. We must Give Christ the Preeminence in *Our Preaching and Practice*.**
 - A. Rather human philosophy. (2:1-10).
 - B. Rather than O.T. law. (2:14-17).
 - C. Rather than human tradition and regulations. (2:18-23).
- IV. We must Give Christ the Preeminence in *Our Minds and Hearts*. (3:1-2)**
 - A. The results of an earth-centered mind. (3:5-9).
 - B. The results of a Christ-centered mind. (3:12-17).
- V. We must Give Christ the Preeminence in *Our Homes*.**
 - A. Behave as "is fitting in the Lord." (3:18-19)
 - B. Behave as "well pleasing to the Lord." (3:20-21).
 - 1. Can "raise" animals, must "bring up" children to please God (Eph. 6:4; 1 Tim. 5:10).
 - 2. Children are to honor and obey parents "in the Lord." (Eph. 6:1-3)
- VI. We must Give Christ the Preeminence in *Our Workplaces*.**
 - A. Servants behave as to the Lord. (3:22-25)
 - B. Masters as ones who have a Master in heaven. (4:1)

Conclusion:

- A. Are you ready to give Christ the preeminence your life?
- B. Believe in Him. (John 8:24). Confess His name.
- C. Repent and Be Baptized in His name. (Acts 2:38).
- D. Do all in his name. (Col. 3:17)