

OH WOW! OH NO! & OH MY!

I. Colossians 1:15-23

A. The title of today's message is, "*Oh Wow! Oh No! & Oh My!*" The verses of this ancient credal hymn are powerful and they will drop us off at the Lord's Table. I'll throw in a few additional Scriptures for good measure. We're about to revisit who the Son of God is--where He came from, why He came, what He accomplished, and where He now resides. The Bread & Cup will reinforce visually what God's Word is about to tell us verbally. Let's allow God's Word do its thing...

B. Colossians 1:15-23 (ESV) is our powerful text...

1) V15-16: 15 He (**God the Son, Jesus the Christ**) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (**Your friendly neighborhood cultists talk about Jesus--but not this Jesus!**) 16 For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities (**the angelic realm**)--all things were created through Him and for Him. (**Oh Wow!**) (**Jesus was quite busy before His carpenter days! He made the forests eons before He ever fashioned items made of wood.**) John 1:1-3 (ESV) **Amens: 1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. (**Think eternity past**) **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made. (**So is the Oh Wow! part starting to register?**)

2) V17: 7 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. (**Oh Wow!**) (**All the atomic, molecular, base elements of our universe, even the undiscovered ones, and all the intergalactic vastness and mysteries of time and space are His doing!**)

3) V18: 18 And He is the head of the body, the church. (**If you understood what the Church means to Jesus, you would have a completely different attitude toward the church globally as well as our little church here!**) He is the beginning, (**One with no beginning or end!**) the firstborn from the dead, (**First to be raised never to die again.**) that in everything He might be preeminent. (**NIV: "Have the supremacy!"**)

4) V19: 19 For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, (**Jesus: fully Man and fully God.**)

5) V20: 20 and through Him to reconcile to Himself (**turn from enmity to friendship**) all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross. (**Oh My!**)

6) V21: 21 And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, (**Rom. 3:23**) (**Oh No!**)

7) V22-23: 22 He has now reconciled (**turned from enemies into friends**) in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him, (**Oh My!**) 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

C. In the event you're only with me on the *Oh Wow!* part but aren't convinced about the *Oh No!* part or the *Oh My!* part, let me share a couple more Scriptures to help:

1) Romans 5:8-11 (NIV) is about enemies becoming friends: 8 *But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, **(Oh No!)** Christ died for us. **(Oh My!)** 9* *Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him! **(Oh My!)** 10* *For if, when we were God's enemies, **(Oh No!)** we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, **(Oh My!)** how much more, having been reconciled, **(turned from enemies into friends)** shall we be saved through His life! **(Oh My!)** 11* *Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. **(How about: Oh My My My!)***

2) Ephesians 2:1-7 (ESV) says we were dead enemies, i.e. *the walking dead*:
1 *And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **(Oh No!)** 2* *in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, **(Satan)** the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience--3* *among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **(Oh No!)** **(Rom. 3:23)** 4* *But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, 5* *even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- **(Oh My!)** by grace you have been saved--6* *and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7* *so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **(How about: Oh My My My!)***

3) Hebrews 1:1-4 (AMP) puts an exclamation mark on the *Oh Wow! Oh No!* and *Oh My!*: *1* *God, having spoken to the fathers long ago in [the voices and writings of] the prophets in many separate revelations [each of which set forth a portion of the truth], and in many ways, 2* *has in these last days spoken [with finality] to us in [the person of One who is by His character and nature] His Son [namely Jesus], whom He appointed heir and lawful owner of all things, through whom also He created the universe [that is, the universe as a space-time-matter continuum]. **(Oh Wow!)** 3* *The Son is the radiance and only expression of the glory of [our awesome] God [reflecting God's Shekinah glory, **(Shekinah: Hb: the visible manifestation of God on earth; His dwelling among us.)** the Light-being, the brilliant light of the divine], and the exact representation and perfect imprint of His [Father's] essence, and upholding and maintaining and propelling all things [the entire physical and spiritual universe] by His powerful word [carrying the universe along to its predetermined goal]. **(Oh Wow!)** When He [Himself and no other] had [by offering Himself on the cross as a sacrifice for sin] **(Oh No!)** accomplished purification from sins and established our freedom from guilt, **(Oh My!)** He sat down [revealing His completed work] at the right hand of the Majesty on high [revealing His Divine authority], 4* *having become as much superior to angels, since He has inherited a more excellent and glorious {name than they [that is, Son--the name above all names]. **(Oh Wow!)***

II. Communion

A. When you take the Bread & Cup today, be reminded of the *Oh Wow!* the *Oh No!* and the *Oh My!* of our Lord Jesus Christ. He made you and He saved you. And all this because He loves you! And the glory yet to come is beyond all comprehension!

B. Read the lyrics to Charles Wesley's hymn, "And Can It Be" (Glad Version)

* Pray & Serve Communion...

* **Colossians 1:13-14 (AMPC) is our Benediction:** **13** *[The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, 14 In Whom we have our redemption through His blood, [which means] the forgiveness of our sins. (How about: Oh My My My!)*

Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

Colossians 1:15-23 (ESV)

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. **16** For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things were created through Him and for Him. **17** And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. **18** And He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent. **19** For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, **20** and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross. **21** And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, **22** He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him, **23** if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

John 1:1-3 (ESV)

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things were made through Him, and without Him was not any thing made that was made.

Romans 5:8-11 (NIV)

8 But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him! **10** For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life! **11** Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Ephesians 2:1-7 (ESV)

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience--**3** among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children

of wrath, like the rest of mankind. **4** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved--**6** and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 1:1-4 (AMP)

1 God, having spoken to the fathers long ago in [the voices and writings of] the prophets in many separate revelations [each of which set forth a portion of the truth], and in many ways, **2** has in these last days spoken [with finality] to us in [the person of One who is by His character and nature] His Son [namely Jesus], whom He appointed heir and lawful owner of all things, through whom also He created the universe [that is, the universe as a space-time-matter continuum]. **3** The Son is the radiance and only expression of the glory of [our awesome] God [reflecting God's Shekinah glory, the Light-being, the brilliant light of the divine], and the exact representation and perfect imprint of His [Father's] essence, and upholding and maintaining and propelling all things [the entire physical and spiritual universe] by His powerful word [carrying the universe along to its predetermined goal]. When He [Himself and no other] had [by offering Himself on the cross as a sacrifice for sin] accomplished purification from sins and established our freedom from guilt, He sat down [revealing His completed work] at the right hand of the Majesty on high [revealing His Divine authority], **4** having become as much superior to angels, since He has inherited a more excellent and glorious {name than they [that is, Son--the name above all names].

Colossians 1:13-14 (AMPC)

13 [The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, **14** In Whom we have our redemption through His blood, [which means] the forgiveness of our sins.

And Can It Be

GLAD - *The Acapella Project* © 1988

A rendition inspired by the 1738 hymn by Charles Wesley with the same title.

And can it be that I should gain
An interest in my Savior's blood?
Died He for me who caused His pain!
For me who scorned His perfect Love.

Amazing love! How can it be
That You, my God, would die for me!
Amazing love! How can it be
That You, my God, would die for me!

You left Your Father's throne above,

So free and infinite is Your grace!
Emptied Yourself of all but love,
And bled for Adam's helpless race.

Amazing love! How can it be
That You, my God, would die for me!
Amazing love! How can it be
That You, my God, would die for me!
Amazing love! How can it be!
Amazing love! How can it be!

Boldly I come before Your throne
To claim Your mercy immense and free,
No greater love will there be known
For O my God, it found out me!

Amazing love! How can it be
That You, my God, would die for me!
Amazing love! How can it be
That You, my God, would die,
That You, my God, would die,
That You, my God, would die for
Amazing love...
Amazing love...

- GLAD is one of the pioneers of Christian pop/rock and a cappella music, having formed as a progressive rock group in 1972 and discovered a large audience for their a cappella music in 1988.

Bonus Stuff

The Supremacy of Christ - John Piper
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QsT6JLTx68o>

"And Can It Be" - Glad
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lJ9ogq_iNV4

Understanding the Pre-Incarnate Glory and Suffering of Jesus Christ - Paul Washer
<https://vimeo.com/169751518>

Phil Keaggy - Concert in Granville, Nov 8th, Spring Hills Baptist/Living Waters Benefit
<https://www.itickets.com/events/434404>

John 1:14 (NKJV)

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Philippians 2:5-11 (ESV)

5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, **6** who, though He was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, **7** but emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Revelation 1:12-18 (ESV)

12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, **13** and in the midst of the lampstands One like a Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around His chest. **14** The hairs of His head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, **15** His feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the roar of many waters. **16** In His right hand He held seven stars, from His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full strength. **17** When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as though dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the First and the Last, **18** and the living One. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Quote by Abraham Kuyper

"There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!"

Quote by St. Augustine

"He was created of a mother whom He created. He was carried by hands that He formed. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute."

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

"Infinite, and an infant. Eternal, and yet born of a woman. Almighty, and yet hanging on a woman's breast. Supporting a universe, and yet needing to be carried in a mother's arms. King of angels, and yet the reputed Son of Joseph. Heir of all things, and yet the carpenter's despised Son."

Quote by Charles Hodge

"A Christian is one who recognizes Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, as God manifested in the flesh, loving us and dying for our redemption; and who is so affected by a sense of the love of this incarnate God as to be constrained to make the will of Christ the rule of His obedience, and the glory of Christ the great end for which He lives."

The Preeminence of Christ - Sermon Excerpt by John MacArthur

<http://www.gty.org/resources/sermons/1601/the-preeminence-of-christ>

And so when we come to Hebrews we come to the preeminence of Christ and especially when we come to Hebrews 1:1-3 do we come to the preeminence of Christ. Someone has said He came from the bosom of the Father to the bosom of a woman. He put on humanity that we might put on divinity. He became Son of man that we might become sons of God. He was born contrary to the laws of nature, lived in poverty, was reared in obscurity and only once crossed the boundary of the land that which He was born and that in His childhood. He had no wealth or influence and had neither training nor education in the world schools.

His relatives were inconspicuous and un-influential. In infancy, He startled a king. In boyhood, He puzzled the learned doctors. In manhood, He ruled the course of nature. He walked upon the billows and hushed the seas asleep. He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His services. He never wrote a book, yet all the libraries of the country could not hold all of the books about Him. He never wrote a song, yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all songwriters together.

He never founded a college, yet all the schools together cannot boast of as many students as He has. He never practiced medicine, and yet He healed more broken hearts than the doctors have healed broken bodies. This Jesus Christ is the star of astronomy, the rock of geology, the lion and the lamb of zoology, the harmonizer of all discords, and the healer of all diseases. And throughout history great men have come and gone yet He lives on. Herod could not kill Him. Satan could not seduce Him. Death could not destroy Him, and the grave could not hold Him. This is our Christ the preeminent one.

- John MacArthur, sermon excerpt from "*The Preeminence of Christ*" Hebrews 1:2-3, delivered January 30, 1972.