

# **Glorious Announcement**

## **“Jesus is God”**

### **Colossians 1:1-20**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Dec. 6, 2015*

In **Colossians 1** Paul writes some of the most worshipful, Jesus-focused contents in the Bible.

Christmas is about Jesus, and in particular the doctrine of the incarnation. God took on flesh and became a human being arriving as a baby, but never ceased being God!

**Colossians 1:15** “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”

Paul is saying that Jesus, who took on flesh, and came as a baby, was absolutely equal in power, standing, and status with God the Father! Jesus is equal to the One who rules and reigns.

**Colossians 1:19** “For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell.”

There’s not a single attribute of God you can’t find in Jesus Christ - FULLY. It’s not just that Jesus Christ is fully God, but that God is fully in Jesus. He’s a God that sweats, bleeds, cries and then dies for us.

Let’s look at three ways believing that Jesus is God will radically reorder your life.

#### **I. If you Believe that Jesus is God You’ll Surrender to Him as Your Final Authority for Everything in Life**

**Colossians 1:16-18** “<sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. <sup>18</sup>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.”

That word ‘preeminence’ means a status of distinction that’s marked by importance or superiority. It includes a sense of royalty or dominion as a King.

- If you say you’re a Christian, does Jesus have first place in everything in your life?

- Is there any view, conviction, idea, behavior or relationship that you've held onto and said to Jesus, 'You have no authority to go there in my life? It's off-limits.'

If Jesus was just a teacher or great man, He wouldn't have this kind of authority over your life. But if He's God and supreme over all things, then there's no limit to His rights over you!

You cannot section some things off in your life as non-negotiable. If Jesus is God then there's no place for 'No Trespassing Sign's anywhere in your life.

"You can't know the Absolute if you absolutize anything else in this world, whether it's chocolate or sex or anything. Don't you see? You can't know the Supreme One if anything else is supreme." – Tim Keller

- What is it that is truly supreme in your life?

When anything or anyone else begins to capture our hearts, and minds, and affections more than God it's idolatry!

Jesus didn't come into your life to be some kind of spiritual supplement or add-on. He is supreme and King and so it's all or nothing. That's what Christmas means. In everything He must have the supremacy.

## **II. If you Believe that Jesus is God You'll be Willing to Suffer, and Risk, and Work Hard to Live for what Matters Most**

**Colossians 1:24** "I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church."

**Colossians 1:29** "To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily."

If you say you believe that Jesus is God you'll start living in ways that some would call radical, because understanding that Jesus is God who stepped into our world and was crushed for your sin frees you up to live for another – another person and another world!

Our world has redefined Christmas to mean the exact opposite of what it originally meant. We've turned it into the coziest time of the year and have surrounded ourselves with comforts. There was nothing cozy about the stable or the mission for which Jesus had been sent. It was raw and radical.

A safe and cozy life where we strive for financial goals, a certain body type, or building our dream home should seem tame and pathetic in light of who He is and what He's done!

A Christian who understands who Jesus is and what He's done is willing to be on the front lines and wants to know Him, the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings. They have a greater joy- the joy of loving and living for Jesus personally because He's better than anything this world has to offer!

### **III. If you Believe Jesus is God You'll Turn Away from Empty Religion and You Won't be able to Get Enough of a Living Relationship with Your Savior that Comes through the Gospel of Grace**

**Colossians 1:5-6** "Because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel, which has come to you, as it has also in all the world, and is bringing forth fruit, as it is also among you since the day you heard and knew the grace of God in truth."

Paul talks about the gospel. He says, "The gospel, the word of truth, has come to you! (v. 6) He's talking about Jesus and the incarnation when Jesus came to us!

It's one thing to have the gospel presented to you. It's another thing to have it show up in flesh and blood.

**John 1:14** "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.