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Is there more than Jesus Christ?



We are starting the season of Advent in Church which is the period preparing for Christmas. Indeed, Christmas is soon upon us.

One of the most well known passages is read at Christmas in the “Nine lessons & Carols” service that so many of us have watched broadcast on Television from Kings College chapel, in Cambridge.

The reading is from John chapter 1, verses 1 to 4:

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 nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

This reading tells us a lot more than just Christmas good wishes. This tells us that Jesus Christ and God are together and that Jesus Christ existed at the beginning of time. Clearly, this reading also tells us that Jesus Christ made everything around us, even things that are invisible to us and not just those that are visible. So Jesus Christ has authority over everything because Jesus Christ made it.

You might think that John chapter 1 is the only place in which that appears, but it is not. You can find the same statements in the Letter to the Hebrews, in the letter to the Romans and so on. Perhaps the clearest text of all is the letter to the Colossians. The letter appears in the New Testament and is written by St Paul.

So let us begin at Colossians chapter 1 verse 15 and 16

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

The verse begins by affirming to us that God is invisible whilst Jesus was not. We are told that Jesus Christ and God are together when we are told that Jesus Christ is the image of God. Yet we are also told that Jesus Christ created everything, both visible and invisible, just as we are told in John chapter 1.

Jesus Christ, the creator, knows about everything in more detail than we do because Jesus made it all, so we really can pray to our Lord Jesus Christ about anything and everything.

The letter goes on (still in chapter 1) to say:

¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

We are again told, as we are in John chapter 1, that Jesus Christ already existed right at the beginning of time. These words are more than just that, because they tell us that the act of Jesus Christ creating everything is not just a one-off event. We are clearly told that in Jesus Christ “*all things hold together*”. So Jesus Christ is also sustaining the world around us.

¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

Again we have confirmation that Jesus Christ has supremacy over everything which is the natural follow-on from having made everything. Here we are told that Jesus Christ was resurrected from death when the passage says: “*...he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead...*”. We are also clearly told that, in fact, Jesus Christ is head of the church. So our primary allegiance is to Jesus Christ himself and the allegiance to human church leaders takes second place.

¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Now we are shown just how important is the crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that enables us to come close to God as God reaches out to us.

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—

Once we were alienated from God - Of course we were: We are all imperfect people and yet God is absolute perfection. Absolute perfection does not mix with imperfection but destroys us. Instead it is the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, which Jesus gave freely, that allows our wrong-doing, sins and imperfections to be forgiven only because Jesus Christ has paid the price for all our wrongs instead of us.

We are all human beings and we are all fallible and imperfect. St Paul wrote, in the letter to the Romans at chapter 7 at verse 21, that he wanted to do good but kept on getting things wrong:

²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that

is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So if even St Paul who is a really good person, and a Saint, keeps getting it wrong then who are we to suggest we are better than St Paul ? The truth is that we are all human beings and we are all fallible and imperfect.

Now finally in the letter to the Colossians we are told what we must do to be saved.

²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

To be saved all that is asked of us is to have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, which is both simple and simultaneously everything.

The letter says to all of us that Jesus Christ made everything and upholds everything. We can pray to Jesus Christ about anything precisely because he knows about everything better than we do – He made it. There is nothing more: Jesus Christ is everything that we need.



Yes we are told clearly that the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ is all that we need and faith in Jesus Christ really is more than sufficient for everything. Yet, Jesus Christ does not force himself upon us, but patiently awaits our invitation.

This painting by William Holman-Hunt is very well known and is inspired by the verse in the last book of the New Testament, the book of Revelations, chapter 3 verse 20 which says:

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

So it is our choice to put our faith into Jesus Christ, it is up to each one of us, and Jesus is just knocking at the door, waiting.

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