

Christ Is ALL

“Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all.” Colossians 3:11

In our present day like never before, the world around us encourages every man and individual to glory in self promotion. While society magnifies a self serving approach to modern day manhood, I want to take just a moment to thank GOD for those men (women, boys and girls for that matter), who instead lose their identity in Christ for the Glory of God! I'm grateful for those who have lived out the apostle Paul's following message in my life!

Announcement - “there is neither Greek nor Jew...Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free...”

The exhortation that is heralded forth by the apostle Paul is to the local church! He tells this group of Colossian believers that they are no more to think of themselves as Greek or Jew, or any other fleshly, natural identifying marker. In other words, God has created a local body, or community, out of people who have dropped off their old selves, identities, ambitions and desires and exchanged them for a new life where Christ is ALL.

Application - “...but Christ is all, and in all”

Paul is urging the church, then and now, to lose our identity in Christ. No matter the subject, vocation, program, conversation, or activity, he says Christ Is All. This thought is foreign to nature, but if we truly have put off the old man and his ambitions, then our new man finds fulfillment only in Christ. Our success is now in Christ. Our satisfaction is in Christ. Our security is in Christ. Because CHRIST IS ALL. The very idea of Paul's exhortation poses questions to each of our hearts. Is Christ ALL in our homes? Is He ALL in our vocation? Is He even ALL in our devotion and service to the church and one another?

ALL - Webster 1828 “The whole quantity, extent, duration, amount”

Hudson Taylor had been serving as a missionary in the country of China for years, with much of his activity being accomplished through trials, stress, darkness and “almost despair”. It all changed one night when in his own words, “I looked to Jesus, and when I saw - oh how joy flowed.”¹ Taylor had long tried to serve and live for God in his own identity and ability, but “this was a new yieldedness, a glad, unreserved handing over of self and everything to Christ.” Through Hudson Taylor's own testimony, it was when he found the entirety of his soul satisfaction in Christ, that great joy came upon the whole extent of his service to Christ.

My sincere prayer is that you and I, as the local body of Christ, would be men, individuals, and a group of believers, who are living testimonies that Christ is ALL! In our homes, Christ is all! In Sunday School, Christ is all! In the choir, Christ is all! In our prayer, Christ is all! In our preaching, Christ is all! In our daily activities of life, Christ may be all!

May it truly be, that Christ is the whole quantity, in the whole quantity of our lives!

~ Pastor Tim Hodge

¹ Hudson Taylor's *Spiritual Secret* (Dr. and Mrs. Howard)