

## ***Jesus, The Icon Of God – Colossians 1:15-19***

(God Series Lesson 3 – 2 Chronicles 7:13-14)

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### **Introduction**

1. The knowledge of God and Jesus constitutes eternal life (John 17:3). Knowing the Father means knowing the character of God through Jesus. God is goodness. Moses was privileged to see how good God literally is. He saw God's glory and righteousness.
2. The purpose is a closer, personal walk with God. This is found in Jesus.

### **I. Jesus, The Icon (Colossians 1:14-19)**

- a. Seeing The Fullness Of God
  - i. Paul is telling us that Jesus is the icon of God (Hebrews 1:3; 2 Corinthians 4:4)
  - ii. The virgin birth of Jesus is not a check list we mark off it is God becoming man in the expressed image of God (John 1:1-2; 14-18).
  - iii. This image is not about looks or beauty but goodness and character. God is love and this seen when Jesus stretched His arms at Golgotha reaching for sinners.
- b. Jesus is preeminent in salvation (Colossians 1:14)
- c. Jesus is firstborn of all creation (Colossians 1:15-19)
  - i. The word image means an exact representation and revelation (Heb 1:3). Jesus Christ came to reveal the invisible and show us the essence of God (John 14:9; 1:18).
- d. Jesus proclaims the fullness of God (Colossians 1:19)

### **II. Nostalgia Is Out**

### **III. Goodness**

- a. Are we good?
  - i. In Matthew 19:16-22 Jesus was correcting the rich young ruler over the word "goodness." Jesus was good (1 Peter 2:22) so why did He raise the question?
  - ii. Jesus was the living goodness of the Law of Moses. He is the epitome of all that God wants in us. Goodness!
  - iii. "Only God is good," Jesus said. "Do you believe that I am good and therefore that I am God? That is why Jesus talked to Him about the Law. God is seen in goodness. To claim Jesus is to claim goodness. This is why external religion fails. Are you good? Are we like God?

### **IV. The Fatherhood Of God**

- a. Family Likeness
  - i. Jesus reveals to us God the Father. Paul and Jesus used the word "Abba" which to us means "Daddy." It is warm close, like family.
  - ii. Fatherhood demands we become like our Father (John 8). God's children must be good. When Christ returns He will be looking for a church that looks like His Son.