

## COLOSSIANS, THE PRE-EMINENT CHRIST

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Colossians 1.18 is a very important verse. It states that in all things Christ must have the pre-eminence. The word for pre-eminence is *proteteuo* which means to be first place and to be the only authority. W E Vine believes it refers to Christ's relationship to the church but does it also mean every matter in a believer's life.

The word *proteteuo* is also used to describe Diotrephes in 3 John 9 who wanted the pre-eminence.

In the Roman Catholic Church, the Virgin Mary is often given the pre-eminence and is described as the Mother of God. In the Elim and other Pentecostal and charismatic churches, the Holy Spirit is given the pre-eminence with its emphasis on the gifts of the Spirit, the speaking in tongues and the doctrine that healing for all illness and sickness is included in the atonement that is to say, the death of Christ upon the Cross. In other words, Jesus did not only die for our sins but for our colds and cancer.

The work of the Holy Spirit is to bring to our remembrance the things that the Lord Jesus taught.

The Methodist churches are, to some extent, ruled by the Methodist Conference and the Anglican Church is governed by the General Synod where decisions and voting takes the place of adherence to the Word of God; hence we now have lady vicars and lady bishops and yet the Scripture clearly says that a bishop must be the husband of one wife.

Both the Methodists and Anglicans have ruled out the Biblical teaching on homosexuality which is condemned in the Bible and this dismissal constitutes another departure from the Word of God.

We must be aware of the danger of having any believer to have the pre-eminence in any of our churches or assemblies. Did the Methodists honour John Wesley above the Lord Jesus? There are many Pentecostal and charismatic leaders who are given pre-eminence such as George Jeffreys, David Watson, Arthur Wallis, Michael Harper, Morris Cerullo, David Pawson et al.

I worship among the brethren and realise that I must not follow Darby, Kelly and the other gifted believers and theologians.

We are called to follow Christ. We are to elevate Him in the sense of giving him the pre-eminence in our lives.

It has been said that Christianity is Christ plus nothing. It has also been said the Colossian epistle has the message of our being complete in Christ which is made possible by allowing the Lord Jesus to have pre-eminence in our lives.

Rev R C Lucas writes, Teachers at Colossae were proclaiming that mere Christianity was not enough. They wanted a fuller experience and a greater liberation was considered essential. Paul was adamant that the fullness of God was in Christ and that only through Him are we set free and made complete enjoying the riches which He has bestowed upon us.

Another has written, It is not what we know or our own personal experiences that make us free and complete in the Lord, but the fact that we know Him and that He knows us.

A wise old brother went to a meeting and listened to testimonies from various people in which they spoke of their wretched lives before they found the Lord. They seemed to relish their evil ways. The old brother then got up and reminded the congregation that upon conversion the past was blotted out

and should not be remembered any more or even spoken about. What he said was correct but not received well. Churches are not Christ centred anymore but, in all things the Lord must have the pre-eminence.

As with the Colossians modern day Christians want something more than Christ.

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