

Sunday, May 3, 2020—Colossians 1:16

Announcements

- Welcome to the Grace Life Bible Church live stream.
 - Teaching directly to the saints of GLBC & others who want to join in.
 - Feel free to comment on the video but I will not be engaging with the audience in real time.
 - Focus on my notes and delivering the message.
- I would like to begin with some announcements.
 - Corona Comfort Playlist on the Church YouTube playlist.
 - Fred Curtis is not doing well. Send them to Fred Curtis, SKLD Healthcare, 2320 East Beltline SE, Grand Rapids MI 49546, Room 201.
 - Janette Nickels and Brad Suderman have recently tested positive for COVID. Marshe, Brad's wife is under self-quarantine. As of now Marshe is no showing and symptoms.
 - Pray for those in our church family that are out of work at this time or may have other needs.
- Things to keep in mind this week.
 - No Wednesday night study this week.
 - Friday @ 7:00 pm—Living the Transformed Life on Zoom. Anyone from the local assembly is invited. Be sure I have your current email address by Noon on Friday if you want to join.
 - Saturday @ 9:00 am – board meeting. The first hour is open to all members. If you would like to participate via Zoom, be sure to let Pastor Bryan know by Friday @ noon and be sure he has your current email address.
 - Offerings can be made on the church's website via PayPal by clicking on the Donate button under Support of Ministry. Checks can be mailed Daryl Doornbos our treasurer at his home. He can deposit them using technology without leaving his home.
 - A One-Anothering Fund has been set up to help saints from Grace Life Bible Church who may be struggling financially. If you are in need of assistance, please contact me or Daryl Doornbos. Your request will be kept confidential.

Introduction

- Last week during our time together we studied Colossians 1:16. In summation we observed the following points:
 - **For by him were all things created**—Christ is “the firstborn of every creature” (v. 15) because “by him were all things created” in verse 16. The creation is contingent upon Christ. Christ is not continued to creation (John 1:1-3).
 - The Lord Jesus Christ created all the governmental positions of rank and authority in heaven (“invisible”) and earth (“visible”). They were created by created by Christ and for Christ.
 - Ephesians 1:10, 20-23; 3:9-11—the eternal purpose of God was to center all things in heaven and earth under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ. This will be accomplished on the earth through the nation of Israel and in the heavenly places through the body of Christ.
- This morning, before moving on to verse 17, I would like to address a couple questions that I received throughout the week regarding last week’s message.

Questions

- *Question 1:* In Daniel 10, how do we know the angel was held up by the princes in heavenly places and not on earth?
 - Colossians 1:16—teaches that Christ created positions of governmental authority in both heaven and earth. We can see and interact with the earthly visible ones on a daily basis. The indication from scripture is that there are corresponding positions in the heavenly places that are just as real even though we can’t presently see them.
 - Daniel 10:5, 11-14, 20-21—just as there are national boundaries here on earth there are governmental boundaries that have been drawn across the heavenly places.
 - These positions of governmental authority in the heaven are currently occupied by Satan and his cohorts i.e., fallen angels.
 - Daniel 10:6-9—in the Bible mere men cannot stand in the presence of angels.
 - Daniel 10:13—the human “prince of the kingdom of Persia” would have responded to this angel as did Daniel and his companions in verses 6-9. Therefore, he would have had no power to detain this angel for 21 days nor would Micheal have been needed to assist this angel. Therefore, the angel is describing something that occurred in the heavenly places.

- Daniel 9:20—the angel knows that he is not going to be allowed to cross the heavenly places uncontested. When he leaves Daniel, he knows he will once again have to “fight with the prince of Persia” and after that “the prince of Grecia.”
- The heavenly places are the current abode of Satan and his cohorts. They occupy the invisible thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers in the heavenly places.
- *Question 2: Are some spirits, or Satan, locked in the 2nd heaven/heavens so they cannot access 3rd heaven (where God is) or 1st heaven/earth?*
 - II Corinthians 12:1-4—scripture indicates that there are 3 heavens.
 - 3rd Heaven—the abode of God almighty.
 - 2nd Heaven—the starry heavens what we might call outer space.
 - 1st Heaven—the atmosphere around the earth that the birds fly in.
 - Job 26:9
 - Revelation 4:6—God has partitioned the 3rd heaven off from the rest of his creation. His throne is on the other side of the “sea of glass like unto crystal.” God has concealed his throne of mankind.
 - Job 15:15—according to Job, the heavens are not currently “clean” in the sight of God.
 - Genesis 1:1—mentions “heaven” singular.
 - Genesis 2:1—mentions “havens” plural.
 - Genesis 3:1—the adversary is present in the garden.
 - Ezekiel 28:13-19—at some point between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 3:1 Satan and his cohorts rebelled and were cast out of the 3rd heaven.
 - Matthew 25:41—the creation of the Lake of Fire is what stopped the angel rebellion in its tracks.
 - Today, the primary abode of Satan and his angels is the 2nd heaven. They are denied access to the 3rd heaven because God cannot allow sin in his presence. That said, throughout the scriptures they seem to have limited access to earth to influence the affairs of men to varying degrees at different times.

- Job 1:6-7
 - John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11—“prince of this world”
 - II Corinthians 4:4—“God of this world”
- Luke 22:3
- Ephesians 6:12
- I Corinthians 2:7-8
- If asked to describe the mechanics of how these interactions take place I must confess that I don’t know because I know of no verse(s) that explain these things to us. That said, I believe what the Bible does clearly teach knowing that to some extent we see through a glass darkly right now.
- *Question 3: Why is control of the 2nd heaven/government structure important to Satan? Isn’t he more interested in destroying God’s creation on earth?*
 - Isaiah 14:12-14—Satan’s original boast was that he would “be like the most High.” The title “the most High” is a very specific title that refers to something very specific about God almighty.
 - Genesis 14:17-19—the “most high God” is defined as the “possessor of heaven and earth.” When Lucifer said in his heart, “I will be like the most High” he was saying that he wanted to be the “possessor of heaven and earth.” He then hatched a two phases strategy to achieve this.
 - Heaven—led 1/3 of the angels in rebellion against God.
 - Earth—usurped the authority and the dominion that God had placed in men through the fall.
 - Ezekiel 28:1-3—the contest between God and Satan is not about power its about wisdom. Satan’s original boast was not the he was more powerful than God but that he was wiser than God.
 - I Corinthians 2:7-8—Satan never knew that the heavenly places were in play. Why? Because the prophetic program focusses on the establishing of a kingdom on the earth. So, in the fulness of time Satan wrought the very action that would result in the complete ruination of his entire plan of evil.
 - I Corinthians 3:19—“. . .He taketh the wise in their own craftiness [Job 5:13].”

- Ephesians 3:9—all God had to do to bring about the total ruination of Satan’s wise plan was the keep a secret.
- Ephesians 3:10-11—now we as members of the body of Christ have the honor and privilege of declaring and manifesting to those very principalities and powers in heavenly places the manifold wisdom of God.
- Ephesians 1:10—the eternal purpose of God has been to center all things in heaven and earth under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Colossians 1:16—the Lord Jesus Christ did not create these positions of governmental authority for anyone else to occupy, there were “created by him and for him.”