

:00 (15) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities --- ALL things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

(18) And He is the head of the body --- the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything He might be preeminent.

(19) For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of His cross.

(21) And you --- who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds --- He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him [the Father], if indeed you --- continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the Gospel --- which He proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Think on these things:

- 1) How much is Jesus “God” (v.19)? Consider also the 4th Doctrine of The Salvation Army: “**We believe** that in the person of Jesus Christ the Divine and human natures are united, so that He is truly and properly God and truly and properly man.”

- 2) What has God [the Father] reconciled to Himself through God [the Son] (v.20)? “What” is identified as bringing peace between men and God?

What is reconciled? _____

What brings peace? _____

- 3) Look up the theological word to describe this effort on Jesus’ part in Romans 3:25 and 1 John 4:10. What is this word? Does Romans, Colossians and 1 John help you to better understand its meaning?

Theological term? _____

Meaning of this term? _____

4) Read Hebrews 10:19-23. How should this understanding impact our relationship with God?

5) Looking at v.21, what 3 terms describe the relationship of non-believers with God?

6) Now looking at the reconciliation accomplished by and because of Jesus' death on the cross, what is Jesus' goal for each and every person He presents to God the Father (v.22)?

7) In v.23 Paul adds obligations that make all this possible for believers. What is our responsibility, better, our required response, for this reconciliation outcome?

People and situations I want to pray for this week: