

Quote 2 Corinthians 5:14--21

At the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa, a special nation exists that is about the same size of New Jersey. By our standards, it's too small. By their standards, it isn't enough. But for the nation and the people of the "Book," the land of Israel that God promised to Abraham was plenty and all they needed. But in the course of time in that crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa, this special nation wanted a king like their neighbor's specifically because their lands were much larger. By their standards, their land was too small. By their standards, it wasn't enough. So the God of the Book, in his Holy Wisdom, sent them King Saul to teach them to be careful what they ask for because they might get it. Nine Hundred years later, in that plot of land about the size of New Jersey, between the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and Africa, this special nation received the gift of all gifts in the form of a carpenter's son from a map dot town of Nazareth. By their standards, Nazareth was a nothing town; home to not one good restaurant; or any restaurant for that matter. By their standards, the son of a carpenter wasn't enough to increase their borders and enlarge their territories. But for 11 out of 12 individuals he called to Himself near the shores of a freshwater lake in Galilee that we like to refer to as a "sea," Joseph the Carpenter's Son, was entirely enough because he was the first born over all creation and in him all things were created.

On this great Sunday, two thousand and twenty one years later, in a nation 432 times the size of New Jersey, I want to suggest to you that the present darkness of the viral pandemic isn't the greatest threat to the Body of Christ in the United States, in Florida, and in Vero Beach. Nor are the threats to religious liberty or personal freedom that ride in the COVID-19 side coach. The greatest threat to the Body of Christ is instead the pandemic of a hidden, faulty, weak, passive Jesus. By our standards, the Jesus of Bible isn't enough for us. But he was for the disciples and the apostle Paul. By our standards, what constitutes a thriving church is measured by marketing, money, and the minister, not the substance of the message. And consequently, we've prayed for ministers who will placate us like the wicked son's of Eli, messages from Juda's Iscariot about Alabaster Jars that will motivate us, and ministries that draw a crowd like the Seven Sons of Sceva. And being the gentleman that he is, God has granted our request and given us what we wanted. And, I'll assure you there is a direct link between the Jesus we create in our image and the decline of our faith at rates never seen before in our nation.

Fortunately, the antidote for this malady is simple. It's even been made available to us by the Great Physician in infinite quantities. Pfizer can't access it. Moderna can't either. And Johnson and Johnson can't even place an order for it. The antidote for this malady is just one simple question: if my life and every single thing around me falls apart, would Jesus be enough? Today, I want to show you what Jesus looked like through a man who had the antidote: the Apostle Paul. How do I know if I'm living right now in a way that suggests Jesus is enough? Let's look in Colossians 1:15-17.

¹⁵ *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.* ¹⁶ *For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.* ¹⁷ *He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

How Do I Know If Jesus Is Enough?

1. Enough Resemblance? (15a)

I've Never Met Them But Have Good Idea of What They Looked Like: (1 Dollar) George Washington; (2 Dollar) Thomas Jefferson; (5 Dollar) Abraham Lincoln; (10 Dollar) Alexander Hamilton; (20 Dollar) Andrew Jackson; (50 Dollar) Ulysses Grant; (100 Dollar) Benjamin Franklin

Text – *The Son is the image of the invisible God*

Ideas – (1) Likeness, Form, Appearance; (2) Visible image of the invisible God

Importance– (1) Image of God mysterious and deadly in the Old Testament; (2) But in Christ, God's image face completely revealed

Image in Colossians: (1) **Merciful in an unmerciful world:** "bear with one another and forgive one another; just as the Lord has forgiven you" (Col 3:13); (2) **Self-Sacrificing in a self-centered world:** Infinitely powerful; yet setting that power aside for our sake by making peace through his blood on the cross (Col 1:20)

Therefore - We march to the beat of a different drum in culture: "set your mind on the thing that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Col 3:3)

2. Enough Rank? (15b)

Never Open On Sundays Because That's the Lord's Day: Chick-fil-a and Priorities

Text – *The firstborn over all creation*

Idea – Priority and Rank

In Our World – (1) the firstborn is the oldest child. (2) He or she is the child that gets away with nothing because it's the first timer for the parents. (3) Firstborn also child who receives the brunt of jealousy by siblings by virtue of being the oldest.

In Biblical World – (1) first born wasn't necessarily the oldest child. (2) Firstborn didn't signify birth order. (3) It signified rank and priority. (4) Ishmael was older than Isaac. But Isaac received blessing. (5) Esau older than Jacob. But Jacob received blessing. (6) Joseph was younger than all of his brothers but he received the blessing.

Significance – Here Jesus isn't just the firstborn over all humanity. But over all creation. He wasn't born before everything. Jesus has always existed because he's preexistent. And therefore he ranks higher than anything and everything.

Application – Since this is true, why do we let him be outranked in our lives?

3. Enough Research? (16)

Famous Words of Chris Gladding: It won't take but a minute (Yeah right).

Text: ¹⁶*For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.*

Idea: Everything seen and unseen in the universe reflects Jesus

Things in heaven: (1) 400 billion stars in the galaxy; (2) 12 stars on pearly gates – The Father had the son in mind when he created both

Things on earth: (1) Let there be light – Father had the Son in mind; (2) Let there be firmament – Father had son in mind; (3) Let there be dry ground – Father had Son in mind; (4) Sun, moon and stars – Father had Son in mind; (5) Birds and sea creatures – Father had Son in mind; (6) Man in the image of God – Father had Son in mind; (7) Sabbath day of rest – Father had Son in mind

Things Visible – Everything we see in: (1) The Heavens; (2) Earth and (3) Sea; the Father had Son in mind

Things Invisible - (1) Wind; (2) Sight; (3) Taste; (4) Smell; (5) Holy Spirit – Father had Son in mind

Thrones, Powers, Rulers, Authorities – (1) Throne of Heaven – Father had Son in mind; (2) Thrones of in North America; (3) Thrones in South America; (4) Thrones in Asia; (5) Thrones in Africa; (6) Thrones in Antarctica; (7) Thrones in Europe; (8) Thrones in Australia ; (9) The Father had the Son in mind

How they were created: By Jesus

Why they were created: For Jesus

Application: God shares His glory with no one or no thing

4. Enough Reliance? (17)

Have to Have a Guitar Near to Play When I Study: Holds together my thinking

Text: ¹⁷*He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

About the Planet and Solar System: (1) Earth tilted at 23 degrees: produces our seasons – Any more, any less would melt us or freeze us. (2) If moon were only 50,000 miles away instead of 200,000 – tides would be so enormous that we would be submerged in water and mountains would be eroded. (3) If crust of the earth was 10 feet thicker – no oxygen, no animals. (4) Earth weighs six sextillion turns that rotates perfectly on an invisible axis at the speed of 1,140 miles per hour. It travels six hundred million miles each year. (5) Sun emits energy with 130,000 degrees of horse power. Closest planet is 36 million miles away; Furthest planet 6,664 billion – yet each rotates perfectly around the son?

If He Has The Whole Earth In His Hands and Holds It Together: I would say he's perfectly capable of being enough for you.