**10 January 2021**

**New Year, New Me, Now Jesus**

**When we remember who Jesus is and what he has done,**

**we are able to stand firm, show love, and walk in the spirit.**

**Who is Jesus?**

1. **Image of God**
* Col 1:15 - He is the image of the invisible God,
* Col 1:19 - For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
	+ Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail the incarnate Deity

Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!

* Col 2:9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,
* John 14:9 - Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.
* John 14:11 - Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

*But what about man?*

* Gen 1:27 - So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.
* Col 3:9-11 - 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.
1. **Firstborn of Creation**
* Literal:
	+ Luke 2:7 - And she gave birth to her **firstborn** son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn
	+ Heb 11:28 By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the **firstborn** might not touch them.
* Place of superiority:
	+ Heb 1:6 - And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

Note: Heb 1:6 is referencing Deut 32:43

* + Rev 1:5 - and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood

**PAUL’S USE OF “FIRSTBORN” IN COLOSSIANS REFERS TO JESUS’ PLACE OF SUPERIORITY**

* Col 1:16 - 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.
* John 1:1-3 - 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.
* Col 1:17 - And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
1. **Head of the Church**
* Col 1:18 - And he is the head of the body, the church.
	+ Church built on the truth that Jesus is the Messiah, the son of the Living God (Mat 16:16)

 **Transition: Firstborn from the Dead**

1. **Jesus not first to be resurrected**
* 1 Kings 17:17-24 - The prophet Elijah prays and God raises a young boy from death
* 2 Kings 4:8-16 - Elisha raises the son of the Woman of Shunem (2 Kings 4:32-37) whose birth he previously foretold
* 2 Kings 13:21 - A dead man's body that was thrown into the dead Elisha's tomb is resurrected when the body touches Elisha's bones
* Luke 7:11–17 - Jesus arrived at the village of Nain during the burial ceremony of the son of a widow, and raised the young man from the dead.
* Mark 5:21–43 / Matthew 9:18–26 / Luke 8:40–56 – Jesus heals 12 y/o daughter of synagogue leader
* John 11:1–44 – Jesus resurrects a close friend
	+ 25 “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, 26 and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.”
1. **Jesus was first to be resurrected to not die again (with glorified body)**

**What Did Jesus Do?**

1. **Reconcile all things**
2. **Present you Holy and Blameless**
* if indeed you continue in the faith

Rom 1:15-16 - 15 So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. 16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to **everyone who believes**, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

John 3:16 - “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes in him** should not perish but have eternal life.

Col 3:15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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