

“The Solution to Everything”

Colossians 1: 9-18
Sunday, July 25, 2021

Introduction: Sometimes things that happened in the past can cause people to have problems many years later. Some examples.

- A dysfunctional childhood can cause problems many years later.
- A failed relationship
- An unwise decision
- A physical injury

I am going to tell you something in my life that happened to me physically years ago that has caused me problems years later. I am somewhat embarrassed to talk about it. From time to time in Jon’s sermons he talks about it, and it is embarrassing to our family.

- Jon will from time to time tell stories about his high school football days.
- Mid-life men need to move beyond their high school football days.
- I am well past mid-life, and I am going to tell one of my high school football stories.
- My story: In my junior year, we were playing one of our big rivalries and during the game I was hit from behind and it messed up my right knee. That happened a long time ago (63 years) and it has caused me to have problems many years later.

Tuesday, I am scheduled to have a knee replacement at Methodist Hospital, but because the Delta variant has gone up my surgery is postponed. My knee problem can be fixed surgically, but there are many problems that happened in the past that can’t be fixed surgically.

T.S. People go through challenging things in life and God has the solution.

The solution to everything is that in all things that Jesus have preeminence in our lives (1:18).

- The word *preeminence* means to be first in everything (NLT and NIV).
- Absolute supremacy.
- God number one.
- God having the “top spot.”

Application: We must guard against God and other things having equal standing. Our priorities must be God first, God second, God third until nothing else or no person competes with God.

Illustration: Often is it the good things that nudge God away from the “top spot.” Our children, our grandchildren, our mates, our possessions, our work, our activities and even our service to God can have equal standing with God.

Application: One quick way to know what has the “top spot” in your life is to look in your checkbook. Jesus said, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also” (Matthew 6:21).

Jesus deserves preeminence in all things in our lives because of who He is (1:15,17,18).

Jesus deserves preeminence in all things in our lives because of what He has done.

- Created all things (1:16)
- Delivered and transferred us (1:13)
- Paid our sin debt (1:14)

We can give Jesus preeminence by the way we live our lives (1:10).

- The Greek word translated *walk* is used 95 times in the New Testament.
- Sometimes it is translated *live*. The NLT and the NIV translate it “live.”

Application: How you live your life, spend your time and money indicates what has the “top spot” in your life.

We can give Jesus preeminence by being fruitful (1:10).

- The NLT says this so clearly.
- God used the word *fruit* to explain what making Him preeminent would produce in the lives of Christians.
- Fruit has three characteristics.
 1. It is visible.
 2. It reflects the nature of the tree it grows on.
 3. It exists for someone else’s benefit.

Application: When God and the things of God are preeminent in our lives these three characteristics are in our lives.

We can give Jesus preeminence by knowing God better and better (1:10).

Conclusion: Some of you remember the old hymn we used to sing, *Jesus Is All the World to Me*.

“Jesus is all the world to me, my life, my joy, my all;

He is my strength from day to day, without Him I would fall:

When I am sad to Him I go; no other one can cheer me so;

When I am sad, He makes me glad;

He's my friend."

Invitation: Can you say those words? Is Jesus all the world to you? Is He your life? Is He your joy? Is He your all?