

I. ME

- A. Series Overview
 - 1. Do we have enough of what it takes?
 - 2. Does the church?
- B. Last week- Jesus is more than enough to have a full life now.
 - 1. How can we trust that?

II. WE

- A. Our experience trusting people
 - 1. Uncle Doug is going to get drunk at xmas
 - 2. Marriage
 - a. Starts happy—realize things you don't trust
 - 3. Friends, Government, Church leaders
- B. Makes it hard to trust that Jesus is enough
 - 1. "Wise teacher. He's a nice guy so he likes us and all but the cross thing? Really enough to completely wipe out the past? Really enough to save us? To make God happy with us without having to earn it?"
 - 2. "Said he'd be with us but that doesn't really seem to help when things are tough... how can we trust Him?"
 - 3. Paul showed us how
- C. Paul Bio
 - 1. Colossians around 60 AD
- D. Colossians issues...
 - 1. "Jesus is good and all but you gotta have more in order to really experience life and have spiritual fullness and fulfillment."
 - 2. You can't really trust Jesus with your life... you need more.

E. Paul- **When you fully understand who Jesus is... you can fully trust Him.**

F. Xians and Not yet Xians- Offer Proof (yes proof) that you can trust Jesus.

III. GOD (Colossians 1:15-23)

A. V. 15

- 1. Image- Perfect manifestation/embodyment of the invisible God.
 - a. Personality, Thoughts, Feelings
 - b. John 14:6-9**
- 2. Firstborn- Not in birth order- not a created being... in Rank/Status.
 - a. Eldest Son- preeminence
 - b. Supreme over everything

3. Jesus is God

B. V. 16

- 1. Heaven and Earth = Universe
 - a. "The universe is telling me..."
- 2. Visible/Invisible- Not just the stuff we see... but the spiritual world as well.
 - a. Not equal to Angels... creator of angels... Colossians we trying to make Him equal to.

C. V. 17

1. Before all things- Pre-existence. Not created being... eternal. He existed before creation itself
 - a. Reduce the history of universe to it's starting moment... what started it? He did.
2. All things hold together- **Cohere**
3. Paul is saying the universe owes it's continuing coherence to Jesus.
 - a. Planets, stars, solar systems
 - b. Equilibrium of life on earth
 - c. Laws of physics, gravity, etc.
 - d. Our bodies
 - e. Electrons around nuclei
 - f. All of it works b/c Jesus holds it together.
4. Why does it all work so perfectly? Why doesn't it all just fall apart?
 - a. Paul says it's not some impersonal force it's a man... Jesus.
5. **Let the depth of that sink in...**
 - a. Paul is saying that the universe was created and is sustained by a poor Jewish teacher that was crucified by the Romans 30 years before.
 - 1) Like saying Reagan was God
 - b. Interesting b/c there wasn't enough time for myth to develop... Paul is writing this while the eyewitnesses of Jesus' life are still witnessing things with their eyes.
6. Paul is saying... **We can trust Jesus b/c He is the creator and sustainer of the universe.**

D. V. 18

1. **We can trust Jesus b/c he is the creator and sustainer of the Church** (Ekklesia)
 - a. He is the head- the One in charge.
 - b. Through everything the church has survived and thrived for the last 2000 yrs... b/c it's not some mythological idea... it's sustained by Jesus Himself.
 - c. **What that means for Crosscreek.**
2. Not only that but he is also in complete control of our eternal destiny
3. Firstborn- Initiator, founder- of a new reality of resurrection. Available to everyone.
4. In everything he has supremacy.

5. We can trust Jesus b/c he is the creator and sustainer of eternal life.

6. Again- look at what Paul is claiming...
7. How can he say such things? What's the proof?
8. "Beginning and firstborn from among the dead..."
9. Paul can say this about a crucified Jewish rabbi... b/c He predicted that he would die and that he would rise again... and then he did.
 - a. And there were eyewitnesses.
10. **Jesus' resurrection is enough to prove that we can trust Him.**
11. Paul drives the point home

E. V. 19

1. Since Jesus is fully God, Creator and Sustainer of the Universe, the Church, and Eternal life, He is enough to fully experience God.
2. He is enough to fully experience life

F. V. 20

1. Through Jesus, God has and will bring his entire rebellious creation back under his perfect rule... PEACE.
2. This peace starts with his people...
3. The whole point of all of this...

G. V. 21

1. We are born separated/Alienated from God
2. Proof? Evil behavior... "b/c of" = "as shown by" It is a result of our separation.

a. Need to teach a kid to disobey?

H. V. 22

1. Reconciled- He has taken the initiative to close the gap...
2. How... Jesus' death.
3. Judge story?
4. Free and clear... no one can accuse b/c it's been dismissed.
5. Not only that... but he keeps us free and clear.

I. V. 23

1. "If" – "Since"
2. "You want proof you are forgiven? Look how I sustain your faith..."
3. "If someone doesn't stay they weren't trusting me in the first place."

G. Summary-

1. Since Jesus is the Creator and sustainer of the Universe,
2. And since Jesus is the creator and sustainer of the Church
3. And since Jesus is the creator and sustainer of eternal life,
4. Which He proved by resurrecting from the dead...
5. We can be certain that...

6. We can trust Jesus to be the Creator and Sustainer of our peace with God and the full life he promised

IV. YOU

- A. You may have been so hurt and burned by others that you aren't very trusting... "People have to earn my trust."
- B. You may not be able to fully trust any person you've met...
- C. But you can trust Jesus completely b/c he IS enough and HAS DONE enough to earn your trust.
- D. What do you need to trust Him with?
 1. Examples...
 2. The One who created and sustains the Universe said...
 - a. "I am with you always."
 - b. "Whoever comes to me I will never drive away"
 3. What is too big for the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe?
- E. Maybe it's time to trust Him to forgive you... to reconcile you to God
 1. To clean your past... to wash away your sins
 - a. You can't do it... you've tried.
 - b. Only He can do it...
 2. Time to trust Him to be the ruler of your life...
 3. He is enough and has done enough to earn that trust.
 4. If there has never been in a moment in your life...

V. WE

- A. He is the creator and sustainer of the Church
 1. Of Crosscreek.
 2. He has given us a mission... and will give us everything we need to fulfill it... we just need to ask and act...
 3. Ask.
 4. Act.

5. Trust.

B. Rocks.

1. The One who created this rock is my creator and sustainer and has promised to never let me go.