

Context

- 1] To insignificant place Paul had never visited
- 2] Beset by different religious – heresy? 44 theories

Intro the crown jewels – Cullinan diamond largest cut diamond, part of the sceptre

Summary

Jesus is God and in charge of all creation having created every part of it (15, 16)

He sustains all things (17) As a man, he is the head of the church and leads the way having been raised from the dead (18) Being fully God he was able to make possible bringing sinful man to Heaven by his death on the cross (19,20)

Main Point *God, in Jesus, made peace with man through his death on the cross*

Key verse *For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Him and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things whether things on earth, or things in Heaven, by making peace, through his blood shed on the cross. (19, 20)*

? *The absence of 'Jesus' and the repeated 'He' emphasises that ALL this refers to Him*

Who is He? (15-18)

1] God (15a)

- a) Image of God (John 14:9; Hebrews 1:3)

cf in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God (Jn 1:1)

nb Invisible – no one has ever seen God (Jn 1:18)

equal to God (Phil 2:5)

Jesus is God

2] Creator (15b, 16)

- a) first born over all creation (15b).

nb only begotten son 'not created' – proceeding from the Father.(Jn 3:16)

- b) made all things (16a)

nb making all things (Jn 1:3)

all things - 'rulers' (powers) NIV - same word as (2:15)

nb nothing is able to separate us from the love of God in Jesus (Rmns 8:39)

** Jesus created all things**

** Jesus is the ruler of ALL creation**

3] Sustainer (17)

- a) before all things - one with the Father

cf God is love indication of plurality in person of God (1John 4:8, 16)

Jesus is eternal

- b) all things hold together

Cf sustains all things by His powerful Word (Hebrews 1:3)

all authority was given to me (Matt 28:18)

Jesus sustains creation

4] Leader (18)

a) The head of the body / the church

cf Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 5:23

Jesus is the head of the church.

b) The first born from among the dead

cf 1 Cor 15:20

Jesus leads the way through resurrection

c) All things he might be first

cf The first born among the dead – cf first fruit (1 Cor 15:20)

Jesus is in absolute control

What He did (19, 20)

1] as man remained fully God (19a)

Cf before Abraham was born I am (John 8:58)

Forgave sins (Mark 2:5-7)

The human Jesus was in person God

2] reconciled all things / creation to himself (20a)

Cf Romans 5:9,10; 2 Cor 5:18

God so loved the world (John 3:16)

3] by His blood on the Cross (20b)

Nb blood = death (Lev 17:11)

Ie becoming a curse for us (Gal 3:3)

Reconciling (2 Cor 5:19)

Making peace (Rmns 5:1)

GRACE Jesus reconciled / made peace between man / God by His death on the cross

Conclusion

Respond? - Rejection of reconciliation (Rmns 1:18ff; 14:10; 2Thess 1:5-10)

Action? Believe in Him, Receive Him, Trust Him, Worship Him