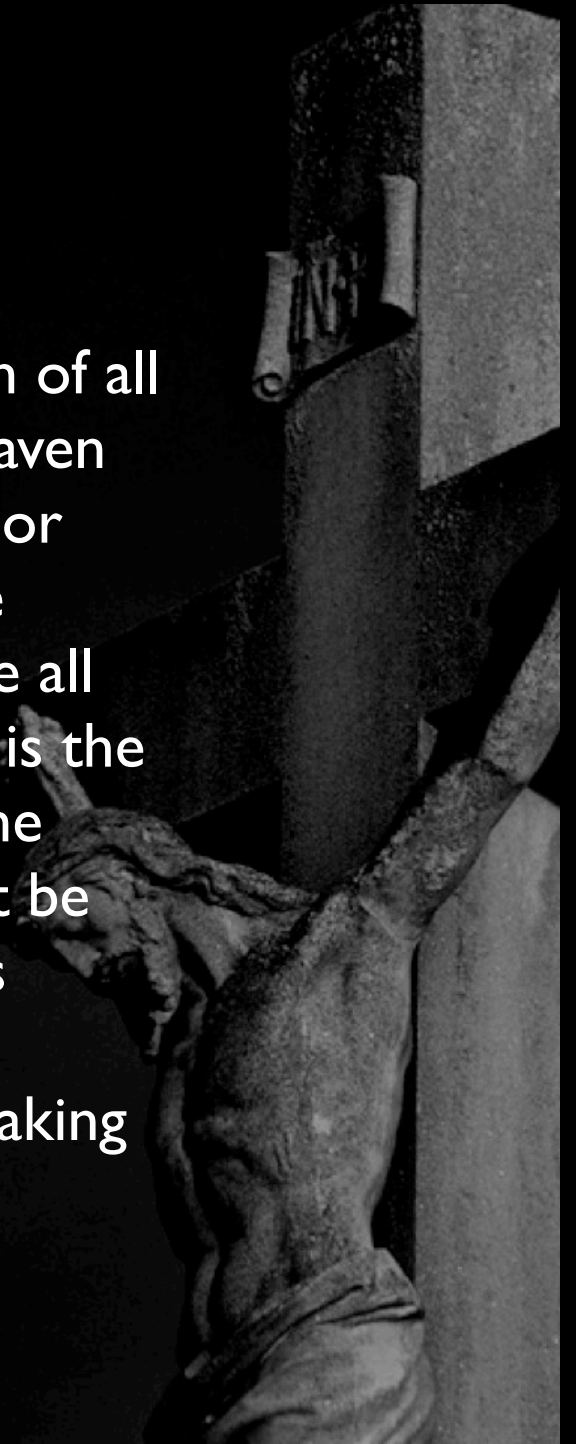


LIFE : *In Christ*
A study in Colossians



Colossians 1

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.



“Pete Campbell”



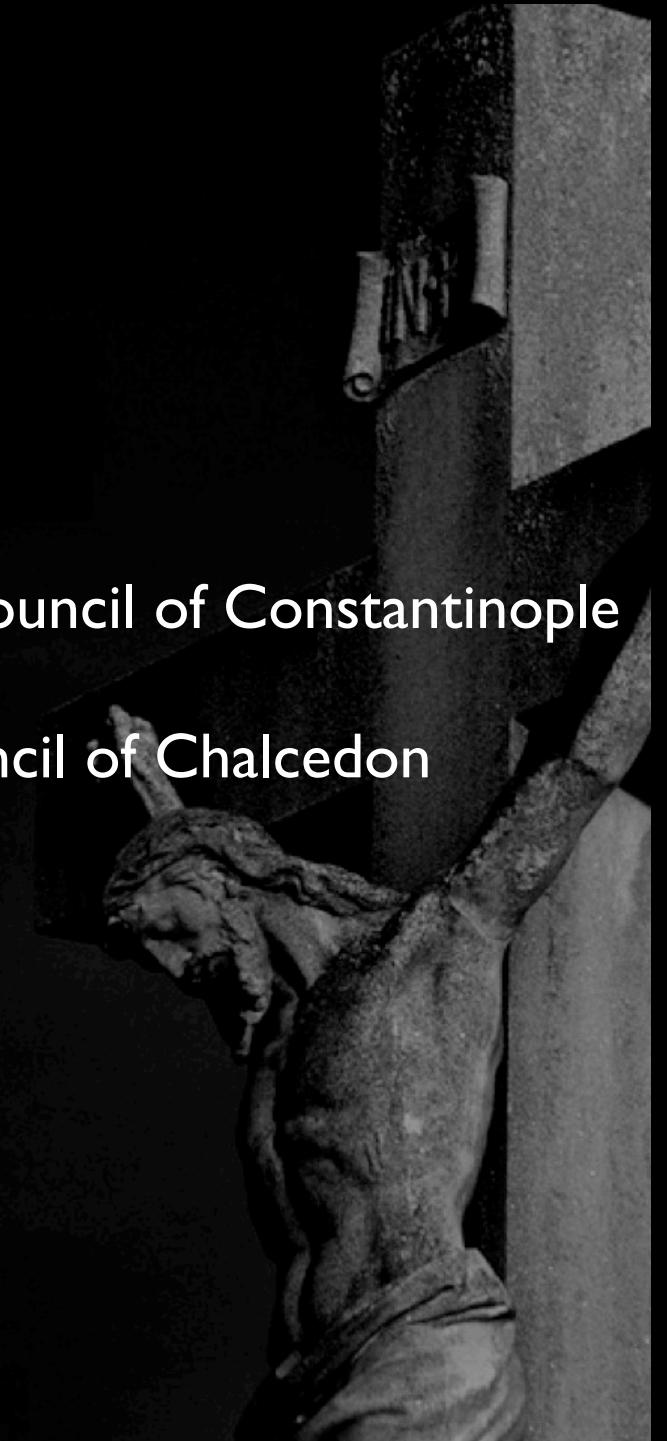
HISTORICAL - What has it meant?

Who do you say that I am?

1st/2nd Century - Jesus, Paul, et al.

3rd/4th Century - 1st Council of Nicaea / 1st Council of Constantinople

5th/6th Century - 1st Council of Ephesus / Council of Chalcedon



BIBLICAL - What did it mean?

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Mamertine Prison, Roman Forum



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PRACTICAL - Why does it matter?

I. God - Fully Accepted

Colossians 1

²¹And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you [holy and blameless and above reproach] before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven.



PRACTICAL - Why does it matter?

1. God - Fully Accepted

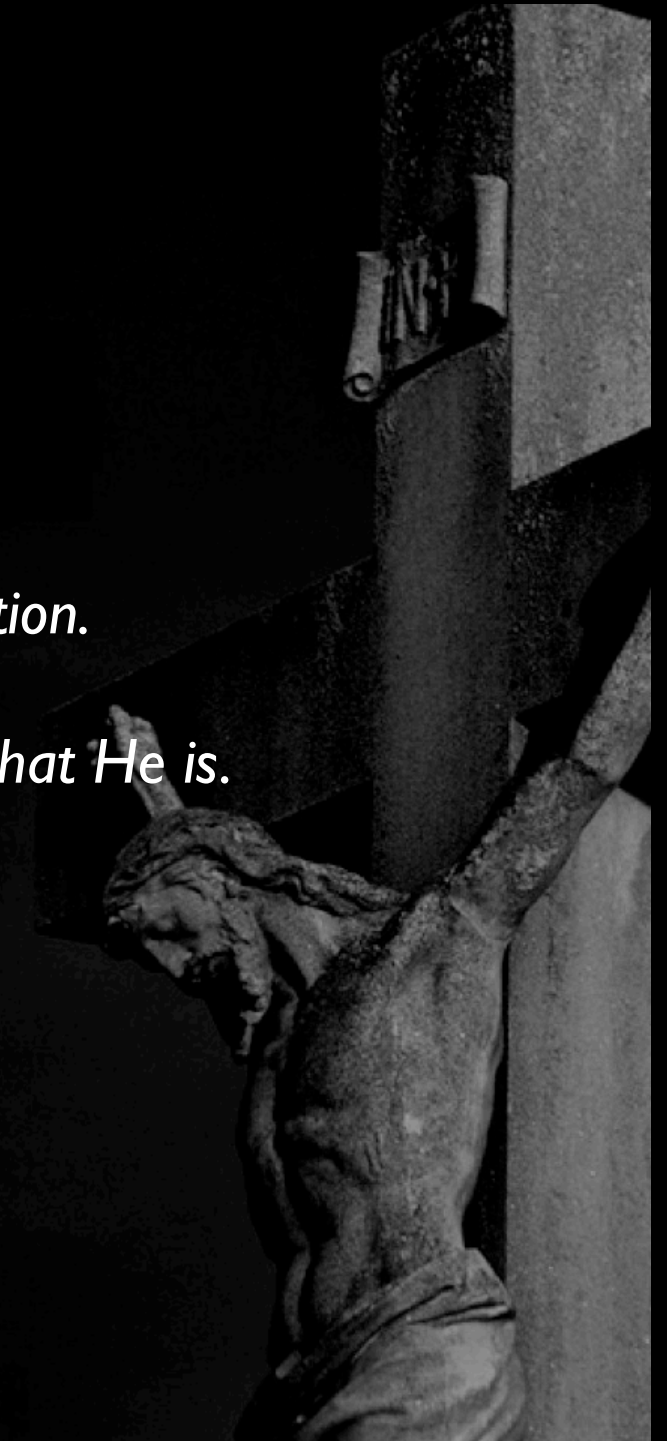
2. Self - Fully Human

2 Corinthians 5

¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.

He became what we are that we might become what He is.

-Athanasius [C.E. 298-373], Bishop of Alexandria



PRACTICAL - Why does it matter?

1. God - Fully Accepted
2. Self - Fully Human
3. Others - Fully Secure

Matthew 6

¹⁴ For if you forgive others, your heavenly Father will also forgive you



PRACTICAL - Why does it matter?

1. God - Fully Accepted
2. Self - Fully Human
3. Others - Fully Secure
4. World - Fully Available

*Humanity was designed to be the perfect vehicle for God's self-expression to the world.
-NT Wright*

