

Pastor Matt Messner

September 8-9, 2012

Faith Center

Colossians 1:13-23

Introduction

Most of us know something about our parents and grandparents. Some of us know more about them than others.

I know that my mother was born in Milwaukie, Wisconsin and my father was born in Lincoln, Nebraska. I know that they met at Westside High School in Omaha, Nebraska, and married young. They moved to the west coast with a one year old. I was born that first year here on the coast, in North Bend, Oregon.

I never saw my parent's childhood. I don't know how they met. I don't know how they related to their siblings or how they interacted with their parents.

I don't know much about their religious experiences.

Our family didn't talk much about the past – mostly just about the present.

When it comes right down to it, I don't know much about my own family – just my own children, Alicia and Levi, my wife Heidi, and my two brothers, Kendall and Mike.

Some of you know less about your families than I know about mine.

Some of us were abandoned by our fathers even before we were born.

Some of you had parents die, at a young age.

Many of us lost parents to divorce.

Whether we realized it at the time or not, when we came to Christ and became a part of the Christian community called the Church, we became part of a radically different kind of family.

We were not joining a service club or an organization. We became a part of something with great eternal and cosmological significance.

We came home to our created core. Our roots regenerated, linking us to our designer and creator. This new family has a family story.

The story of our new family has an amazing history that is described in vivid detail.

In our family history the chapters of our autobiographies have already been written.

There is much written on our eternal Father, His Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit who transformed our spirit from death, into life. There are chapters written about the battle for our families and our souls. They explain in the struggle of previous generations. We can study and learn from this history.

Now, we are involved in the creation of new chapters in our own autobiographies.

As a 6th grader, I became hooked on a series of books entitled, "Choose Your Own Adventure".

These books were different from other books. In these books, you and YOU ALONE are in charge of what happens in this story.

There are dangers, choices, adventures, and consequences. YOU must use all of your numerous talents and much of your enormous intelligence. The wrong decision could end in disaster - even death. But, don't despair. At any time, YOU can go back and make another choice, alter the path of your story, and change its result.

There were many different storylines, but one memorable one that I used to read was called "Space and Beyond" (read the intro and a few parts of the book).

So your choices would result in victory, or defeat.

In this life we are choosing our own adventure and the chapters are being written with each

new flip of the calendar. This life isn't a game. (At "Come to Carson", read Colossians 1:13-23 and give a challenge to trust Jesus)

In our autobiographies, we would do well to know our history because our history gives us our identity.

In "Modern Family", our new series, we will be studying this family and its history as has already been recorded: The family of God has the best Dad ever. The family of God includes the Son, who incredibly is the firstborn of the family line we have joined. There are siblings; me and you and those around you. There is even a mother figure, and her name is wisdom. We read about her in the book of Proverbs. This is the family that we'll be a part of for eternity. It will outlast our biological families. It precedes our birth and will succeed our death.

Today we are going to look at the "Head of the House", and our text is found in Colossians 1.

Text: Colossians 1:13-23

¹³ For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

¹⁶ For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ 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.

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.

²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—

²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Family Portrait

In these few verses we are given one of the richest descriptions of Jesus in all of Scripture – highlighting His divinity. It paints a portrait of Christ but it also references the Father, and it references you and me, whether we are followers of Him or not.

Let's look at those described in the passage we just read:

- **The Father**

He and the Son work together in perfect harmony and unity, being of one essence, together along with the Holy Spirit, making up the God we worship.

Here the Father is described as

- The rescuer: A rescuer is one who is willing and able to help us in areas that we are incapable and powerless to address ourselves.

Instead of abandoning His children (which many fathers do today), our heavenly Father devised a plan to rescue us when we abandoned Him.

- The planner and architect of salvation
- The reconciler – Within the heart of the Father there is a desire to see all of his children – all whom He created, make the choice of reconciliation which He has made available to all.

- **The Son**

- The “head of the body”
 - Head of the household: When we file our taxes we have to identify a head of the household. Some men have seen this as a synonym for “The King of the Castle”, and have attempted to lead their families by controlling their wives and children as slaves and expecting them to do all the dirty, menial jobs. He controls the money and makes all the major decisions. In this dysfunctional home, all can come to believe they are second-class citizens. Jesus functions as the head in contrast to this cultural stereotype.
 - Defining head (1 Corinthians 11, 12 and Ephesians 5)
 - Source
 - Biological nerve center, sending signals to the body so that it will function correctly
 - Feels what the body feels
- Redeemer: “Complete release based on the payment of a price” A coupon or gift certificate is worthless until it is redeemed. The same thing is true of the gift of life extended from God to us. That gift must be personally applied to our souls in order to have value to us.
- Forgiver
- Ruler
- Firstborn of creation
 - How many firstborns do we have here? How many middles? How many babies?

- Jesus, as the firstborn over creation, pre-existed before time
 - Not the first one who was created, but rather preceding all that has been born. Also, the firstborn is the “heir” and superior to all other children.
 - Note about JWs. They use this verse to argue against the divinity of Christ, but in fact it is a passage that makes His divinity clear.
 - Also, firstborn of those who are resurrected. **We were born into death. We are born again into resurrection.**
 - The victorious one – who through his own shed blood opened the way for peace and victory over death
 - **Sustainer of the universe:** “In him all things hold together”. Of all that science cannot understand, there is an explanation. The perfect balance of the universe. The perfect tilt of our planet and the balance of the sun. The force that holds atoms together. The protein molecule that is the glue. The mystery of DNA and the miracle of life.
 - **Fullness of God:** Jesus embodies the totality of the essence of God – His power, His attributes and His glory.
 - **The visible image of the invisible God: He is the perfect representation,** making God visible in a three dimensional world.
 - Supreme: Death does not reign. All the powers of the world have been overcome and defeated.
 - The chapter in the Son’s life that bridged the gap between God and humanity was his death (and resurrection) on the cross (vss. 20 and 22).
- **Those in darkness**
 - We are all born under the dominion of darkness. Yes, I thought my children were born as angels, but without my help at all, “no” and “mine” became two of their favorite words before they were two years old.
 - **The family we were born into is one of spiritual darkness**
 - Unreconciled to God – separated by our sins
 - No peace
 - Enemies of God in our minds
 - Under the dominion (rule) of Satan’s kingdom
- **The Church (vs. 18)**
 - A new type of people.
 - Rescued
 - Redeemed
 - Forgiven
 - Transferred from one dominion to another
 - Members of the **Body of Christ**
 - He is the life source and supplier
 - He sends signals to guide the body

- He feels what we feel
- We are in Him
- He is with us
- At peace with God
- Without blemish
- Without accusation

The “Head of our House” is Jesus

Conclusion/Application (Our response)

²³ if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.

This verse is strong on our free will and responsibility. In this family, **Our decisions matter.**

Our response then is to:

- “Continue” by keeping Him central in our lives
- Keep hope “firm”, not shaky or unstable, not moved (which means we are capable of moving away).

The central figure in history, the sustainer of the universe, the head of your house and mine, is (can be) Jesus.

Next time you feel out of control call upon the head of the house (Jesus), because He is in control.

Next time you have a panic attack, call out to the head of the house (Jesus), because He is the peace giver.

Wherever your life is being pulled from Christ, or shaken, turn those areas over to Him.

We make or break our lives based on the decisions that we make.

As you make decisions, remember who is “the head” of your house.