

## Weekly Bible Study for Highcliffe and Bransgore Methodist Churches

### **Creation Proclaims** – Colossians 1:15-22 by Norman Bonnett w/c Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2020

“Back to the Basics” was a phrase which coloured my teaching career. It was as true for me as a cricket or football coach as well as in my delight in teaching tables in a math’s lesson.

Here in this passage we are drawn “Back to the Basics”. It deals with two important questions I am always asking:

1. Who was Jesus?
2. Why did he die?

Paul is writing to the Colossians from prison in order to refute what is called the “Colossian Heresy” and to affirm the truth of the Gospel. Simply, the heresy was a series of teachings which had arisen in order to find alternative philosophies and beliefs to the truth.

May I ask you to spend a few moments asking yourselves and writing your answers to two more questions:

1. What do you find difficult to digest about the Christian faith?
2. Do you know of any alternatives used by other sects or groups to disprove the Gospel?

Now read the passage of scripture again, perhaps several times and pausing over key words or phrases. It is a very beautiful passage which is a superb declaration of the basics of the Christian creed. It is based on the word “Image” meaning that Jesus’ whole nature is a full copy of God the Father, “God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him” (Verse 19). Then starting in verse 21 Paul answers the question “Why did Jesus die?” He challenges us not to lose hold of the hope we have in the Gospel.

This passage is recognized as an early Christian hymn which was used repeatedly to declare the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Most of our hymns still try to do that. “And can it be” by Charles Wesley comes to my mind, can you find some more? Should we still be singing them to continue proclaiming the central truth of Christianity in song?

As a teacher both in the classroom and on the sports field, I was deeply aware of how vital the basics were. Let us pray that we will all engage in the Christian basics that we find in this passage. Of course, the passage does not declare ALL of the Christian belief system. Think of other facets which are not included, the resurrection comes to my mind but there are others.

May you find blessing as you focus on this passage.