

Ephesians 1:10

August 2, 2020

Part 1: Pre-Communion

16 For 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. **17** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. --Colossians 1:16-17

The Fingerprint on Everything

Everything was created by Christ: Col 1:16; John 1:3; Hebrews 1:2

His touch, His fingerprint is on everything

Fingerprints as treasure hunts

In Him all things hold together: Col 1:17; Hebrews 1:3

Beyond Deism: a thought experiment

Realizing that we live in a Christ-saturated, Christ-soaked reality

Everything is always pointing to Jesus Christ

Communion makes this abstract idea concrete

Between symbol and transubstantiation: real presence

While communion is unique, it tutors us to see the whole world as Jesus-centered

Part 2: Post-Communion

8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight **9** making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ **10** as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. --Ephesians 1:3-14

All Things United, Summed Up, Reconciled in Christ

The key word: united (**Eph 1:10**), summed up (**Rom 13:9**), reconciled (**Colossians 1:20**)

Gather together so that everything contributes to the beauty of Jesus Christ

Even evil will play its role in being judged like the dark shades of a painting

The metaphor of the world as a mosaic

Everything was made by Jesus the Artist/Author as a good extension of Himself

Sin splintered this good reality into pieces

The victory on the cross succeeds at gathering all the hurtling pieces together

God's plan is that every piece is put back together, the blood of Jesus as the grout

The end result is a mosaic of the first, only now more beautiful than the first

The before (created), during (sustained), and after (summed up) is centered in Christ

We can encounter Christ everywhere in everything in this Christ-saturated world

One application of that relates to our experience of beauty

The experience of beauty is universal while the definition of beauty is elusive

The experience of beauty includes awe, wonder, ache, longing, desire, joy

My theory of beauty: we are encountering the joy of Jesus the Artist lingering
 The universal experience of joy/satisfaction when humans make things
 Multiply this exponentially in Christ making the world
 His joy over the goodness lingers in all the cracks and crevices and spaces of the world
 Like a plane flying into a cloud, we hit these pockets of Jesus-joy and call it “beauty”
 Beauty is the great universal evangelism, pointing the whole world to Jesus
 Many just don't know it yet and we get the privilege of connecting the dots

Comparing the Language of Ephesians and Colossians

Ephesians 1:9-10, 20-23, 2:14, 3:6	Colossians 1:15-20, 26-27,
<p>9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.</p> <p>20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places,</p> <p>21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.</p> <p>14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility</p> <p>6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.</p>	<p>15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by ^ahim 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. 17 And 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, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.</p> <p>26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.</p> <p>27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.</p>