



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## *The Great Creator Became Our Savior*

TIM PAULEY

JOHN 1:1-3; 10-11; COLOSSIANS 1:15-17; 21-22

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**Our recent state of the state address gave us a good example of how we honor those in positions of authority, influence, and accomplishment in our society. The House floor and the galleries were packed with people to hear the governor's speech. All arose and stood and ovations given as the various leaders were introduced and entered into the chamber. A special committee was formed to meet the governor and usher him into room. Throughout the speech the governor recognized various individuals for their accomplishments and contributions, and these were honored with standing ovations.**

**We honor some because of their position. We honor others because of their accomplishments. There are those we honor because of their tremendous demonstrations of character, service, or sacrifice. It is the purpose of our studies on the life and work of Jesus Christ to remind us that we should recognize and honor Him above all because of these very reasons. We honor Jesus because of His position as God the Son. We praise Him for the work He has accomplished. We lift Him up for of the demonstration of His nature and character shown in all He has done on our behalf.**

In our introductory study we saw how Jonathan Edwards took note of the diverse qualities (“excellencies”) found together in Jesus. (i.e. The description of Christ as both a lion and a lamb in Revelation 5:5-6.) The presence of these disparate – seeming contradictory excellencies should captivate our hearts and affections and cause us to love, worship, and serve Him. In considering such qualities in Christ, we do well to start at the beginning – actually *before* the beginning. Although Jesus Christ is the *creator of the universe*, He humbled himself to enter into that creation as a man. John's gospel describes this for us:

*<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*

*<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. <sup>11</sup> He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.*

Paul also describes how Christ is creator of all things yet our Savior as well in Colossians 1:

*<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.*

*<sup>21</sup> And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach...*

Both these passages clearly say that Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God, created all things. Yet He was willing to enter into that creation so He could be the Savior. William Booth Clibborn, grandson of William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, captured this thought in his hymn, *Down from His Glory*:

***The Great Creator, became my Savior,  
And All God's fullness, dwelleth in Him.***

Just contemplate those words for a moment, “the great Creator, became my Savior...”

### **JESUS CHRIST IS THE GREAT CREATOR**

Jesus is the Great Creator of all things. “**All things came into being through Him.**” “**By Him all things were created...**” We could spend hours considering all the

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### **BIBLE STUDIES**

LOBBYIST / STAFF STUDY: **TUESDAYS, 12:00 NOON**, TREASURER'S CONFERENCE ROOM (EB 54)

LEGISLATOR / ELECTED OFFICIAL STUDIES: **THURSDAYS NOON** TREASURER'S CONFERENCE ROOM (EB 54)

## *The Great Creator Became Our Savior*

implications of these passages, but let us just grasp the simple fact God's Word is proclaiming – **Jesus Christ created all things!** There is no clearer statement of proof in the Bible that Jesus is God than this. We are all familiar with those first words of Genesis, **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...”** These scriptures teach us that Jesus, God the Son, is that one and the same God introduced in Genesis.

We see Christ's glory in creation. Through the telescope we can see the vast sizes, distances, and grand mechanics of the universe He spoke into existence. Through the microscope we can see the intricate design and beauty of the smallest objects He has made. It all points to His glory and power. Here is how Jonathan Edwards describes it:

*Christ is the Creator and great Possessor of heaven and earth. He is sovereign Lord of all. He rules over the whole universe, and does whatsoever pleases him. His knowledge is without bound. His wisdom is perfect, and what none can circumvent. His power is infinite, and none can resist Him. His riches are immense and inexhaustible. His majesty is infinitely awful.*

We should indeed honor Christ simply because of His position as creator of all things. This is why people fight so hard against the idea that God created this world. If He did, then we owe Him honor and obedience. This is why so many “worship and serve the creature, rather than the creator, who is blessed forever” (Romans 1:25).

### **JESUS CHRIST BECAME OUR SAVIOR**

John tells us Jesus “was in the world” (1:10) and that “He came into the world” (1:11). Paul tells us that that Christ “reconciled us in His fleshly body through death” (Col. 1:22). Jesus condescended to enter into His creation, becoming one of the very creatures He had created. John further describes this in a statement we have already studied:

*<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.<sup>1</sup> (John 1:14)*

Jesus entered His creation in the most humble of ways. He came as a baby in a manger born to a poor family. Imagine the Creator of all things in such circumstances. Then we see how His creation received Him. John writes “The world was made through Him and the world did not know Him” and “He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him.” Paul writes that we were “alienated and hostile in mind, *engaged* in evil deeds...”

In fact, it was because of those evil deeds that Jesus Christ came. We have all sinned in rejecting and rebelling against the One who created all things. This sin is so serious and the consequences so severe that the Creator Himself came so that He could bear the punishment for that sin upon Himself. In doing so, He demonstrated His love, mercy, and grace to those He had created. And so we would honor Christ too for the demonstration of His character and for the service and sacrifice He offered on our behalf.

William Clibborn captured it well: **“The Great Creator became our Savior...”** In the busyness of the session and hectic pace of our daily lives, let us just stop for a few moments to ponder that truth. In doing so, let our hearts be overwhelmed with that truth so that our affections might truly be changed.

- Let us honor Christ for His position as Creator of the universe.
- Let us honor Him for the works that He has made.
- Let us honor Him for the love, mercy, and grace He demonstrated in entering into His creation so that we might have our sins forgiven through repentance and faith in Him.

John tells us why he recorded these truths in his gospel:

*...These have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. John 20:31*

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<sup>1</sup> We discussed this passage in some detail in our study in December. <http://www.capitolcom.org/west-virginia/studies/2013>