

Colossians Series

Lesson #68

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Dean Bible Ministries

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A landscape photograph showing a field of dry grass in the foreground, a line of trees in the middle ground, and a range of mountains in the background under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

COLOSSIANS:
Jesus Christ is All-Sufficient

By What Standard?

Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:18–20

Col. 3:16, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

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ἐνοικέω *enoikeō*

pres act impera 3 sing

to dwell in, live in, make a habitation in, to take up residence, to make at home

What We Have Learned

- 1. Col. 3:16/Eph. 5:18 list hymn singing first in the list of results of a life filled with the Word of God by the Holy Spirit.**
- 2. One primary purpose of hymn singing is to teach one another and admonish/correct one another.**
- 3. Other purposes:
To express our joy for God's work in our lives (defense, Ps. 5:11, 63:7 His grace to us, Ps. 13:6, 59:16; remembering His works, Ps. 30:4) to declare His name *among His people*, Ps. 9:11**
- 4. Singing is not about evangelism, making nonChristians comfortable, attracting people to a local church.**
- 5. Singing is not about how it makes us feel, but about describing and declaring who God is and what He has done.**
- 6. Hymns, both music and words, must be evaluated according to some standard.**

CULTURE

1. The popular meaning:

The quality in a person or society that arises from a concern for what is regarded as excellent in arts, letters, manners, scholarly pursuits, etc.

2. The meaning here:

The beliefs and behaviors that characterize a group of people, from a small group such as a family or team, to a large group such as an ethnic group or national entity.

The beliefs influence the values, priorities, actions of a group of people. In this sense, what the Bible speaks of as worldliness is really the culture of different groups of fallen, rebellious human beings.

GOD CREATOR

**TRUTH, BEAUTY
resides in the
thinking of God**

God speaks to
everything He
creates or He
speaks to nothing
He creates.

FINITE UNIVERSE

Matter/energy

Light

Vegetation

Animals

Man

[who he is

Purpose

Social

(marriage, family,

law, politics)

Ethics

Aesthetics

(art, music, literature)]

Conclusion

The Word of God then gives us a framework for establishing standards for excellence.

Words expressing aesthetic excellence:

Glorious

Magnificent

Majestic

Splendid

Beautiful

Excellent

Biblical Terms to Express the Beauty and Glory of God

טוֹב (*tôb*) Good, pleasant, beautiful, delightful, glad, joyful, precious, correct, righteous. Gen. 6:2, 24:16

יָפָה (*yāpâ*) be fair, beautiful, handsome. Gen. 12:11, 12:14

צְבִי (*ṣ^ebî*) beauty, splendor, magnificent, Ezek. 20:6

הִדָּר (*hādar*) honor, adorn, glorify. 2 Chron. 20:21

- 1. The Bible uses a number of terms to express the beauty and excellence of God. These terms establish God as the standard of beauty.**

Thus,

God possesses *intrinsic* beauty which is the standard of all excellence, splendor, magnificence, beauty, and glory.

Intrinsic Beauty

Beauty that is inherent *in* something, independent of a response produced.

A response produced relates to the subjective aspect, that may be tainted by corruption in a fallen world and a fallen culture.

“We call the object beautiful because it has certain properties that make it admirable. It has those properties whether or not its having them results in its being enjoyable by you or me.”

~Mortimer J. Adler

2. Key verses

2 Chron. 20:21, “And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: ‘Praise the LORD, for His mercy endures forever.’ ”

Job 40:9, “Have you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His?”

Job 40:10, “Then adorn yourself with majesty and splendor, and array yourself with glory and beauty.”

**Psa. 27:4, “One thing I have desired of the LORD,
that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of
the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the
beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple.”**

Psa. 104:1, “Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty,”

Gen. 1:31, “Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.”

3. All CREATION was *tov*, beautiful, but was corrupted by sin. Therefore, our experience with beauty, or what we value as beautiful, must be understood to be under the post-fall corruption of sin.

Rom. 8:20, “For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope;

Rom. 8:21, “because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

Rom. 8:22, “For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.”

Ethical Spectrum

Sin

Righteous

Wrong, Sin
Bad
Chaotic
Evil
Profane
Common

Righteous
Good
Ordered
qadosh
**“Set apart
to God”**

Aesthetic Spectrum

Ugly

Beauty

Ethical Spectrum

Sin

Righteous

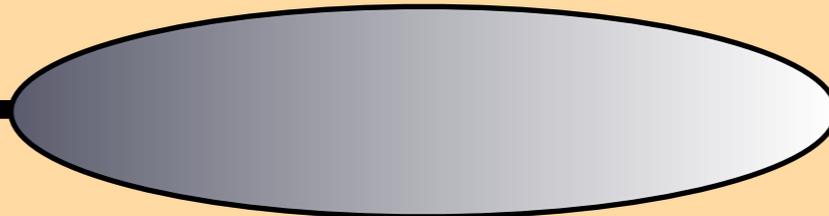
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Aesthetic Spectrum

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Beauty



Trivialize

make (something) seem less important or complex than it really is

Banal

tediously commonplace or unoriginal

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“This aesthetic vice deadens the sensibilities of the lay person who is not aesthetically keen enough to recognize it but is nonetheless harmfully affected by it. And it annoys the aesthetically aware person to distraction, or else it puts her to sleep.”

~James Spiegel

“If it’s bad art, it’s bad religion, no matter how pious the subject.”

~Madeleine L’Engle, author *A Wrinkle in Time*

Col. 3:17, “And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.”

1 Cor. 6:20, “For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”