



Dear Crossroads Family,

During WWII, the great British theologian, C.S. Lewis, gave a series of BBC radio talks. In them he offered his famous argument entitled the “Trilemma.” It was eventually presented in his book *Mere Christianity*. The “Trilemma” was his attempt to shut down the popular middle ground view about Jesus that He was simply a great moral teacher but not God.

Lewis argues that based on the things Jesus actually said—specifically his claims to forgive sins (which only God can do) and his claims to have always existed—we are left with only three logical possibilities:

Liar: Jesus knew he wasn't God but deliberately deceived his followers. This would make him a demonically wicked man, not a "great moral teacher."

Lunatic: Jesus truly believed he was God, but he was mistaken. This would put him on the level of someone who thinks he is a "poached egg." He would be a man suffering from a profound psychological delusion, not a "great moral teacher."

Lord: Jesus was exactly who he said he was.

Lewis summarizes the argument with this pointed rebuke of the middle ground view:

"A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse." (*Mere Christianity*, pp 52 – 53)

The Bible makes it clear that the answer to all of our ultimate needs and longings are only found in Jesus, the Son of God and the only Savior for all people. **1 John 5:12** states simply and unambiguously, “Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.” What a person decides and then chooses to do regarding Jesus the Christ determines whether or not they will spend earthly life and eternal life with God experiencing the joys of heaven or this life and the life after separated from God and ultimately banished to hell.

As we share Jesus with others, we cannot compromise on this point. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Him. It is imperative that we solidify our commitment to Jesus as the only way. This will be the focus of our Bible study and sermon this coming Sunday. (Sermon notes are provided below.)

I missed worshiping with you in person last Sunday. Many of you commented that you took advantage of the sermon that I preached online. I appreciate your commitment to Crossroads and to the Word. Let's make up for

lost “together” worship and fellowship time this coming Sunday and all be present to study, share, worship, and grow together. I can’t wait to see you and share the Word with you.

Love,
Bro. Doug

P.S. Remember that this is the 1st Sunday of the new month so we will have the red barrels out to collect your donations of food and diapers for those in need. Also, with no in-person services last Sunday, many of you were unable to give to the Lord’s work in the way you normally do. I probably don’t need to say it to you, but your gifts matter. Do your best to give as the Lord has instructed and inspired you to do. Remember the words of Paul: *“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work” (2 Cor. 9:8).*

Stop Grinding Pencils ***Colossians 1:15-22***

The Bible teaches that there is only one Person Who _____ the heart of the Father for us. In Col. 1:15–22, Paul shatters any idea that Jesus is merely “_____” ways to God, stressing instead His absolute, singular uniqueness. Paul claims that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. In Greek though, an “eikon” shares in the actual _____ or character of the thing represented. The only way to “see” God is through an “eikon” that doesn’t just look like Him but is perfectly _____ with His nature.

Paul then describes the _____ of Christ in relation to everything else: “firstborn over all creation.” Firstborn didn’t represent birth order. It carried a heavy legal and metaphorical meaning regarding _____ and _____. Christ is “firstborn” because He is the Creator. He is not part of creation. He holds the rank of Supreme _____ because He is the _____ of the entire “network.”

Jesus is also the firstborn from the dead. He is not just the Sovereign over the _____ Creation but the Sovereign over the _____ Creation, the Church, by virtue of being the first to _____ from the _____. The _____ is made up of those who will rise from the dead to the Father.

But our sinfulness makes us _____ of God who need to make _____ with Him to enter His presence. Only Jesus could make peace with God for us because only in Him dwelt the _____ of God. Now Christ presents you holy in God’s sight, without _____ and free from _____.

We can spend our entire lives like we are grinding pencils in a pencil sharpener, trying to sharpen our own _____, _____, or “_____” to somehow catch a glimpse of the Divine. The invisible God has already _____ His perfect image into our world.

The question for us today is “Are we _____ to the only One Who actually knows Him?” Trust the One Who is the perfect, _____ - _____ revelation of the Father.”

A Couple of More Reminders:

Don't forget that the **Quarterly Business Meeting** is scheduled for Sunday, February 1, at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The agendas are available in the foyer.

A **Valentine’s Banquet** will be held Friday, February 13, from 6:00-9:00 pm in the Community Center Gym. Tickets are \$15.00/person and will be available for purchase Sundays, February 1 & 8 before and after the Worship Service. All proceeds will go to the youth for their summer camp. See flyer in the bulletin or on the website for more details.