



**SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Monday, 08/16/2021**

**Scripture: Colossians 1:19-12**

**TITLE: The Much Needed Upgrade**

What was the last upgrade you made in your life? Was it the purchase of a new 4K TV on Black Friday? Was it finally trading up your car for a new set of wheels? Was it that Mommy Makeover you’ve been dreaming of since kid number four? Was it that new set of golf clubs to help you drive that ball an extra yard? Whatever it was, we all like a good upgrade. But there is no greater upgrade than the one God offers us through His Son.

What is that makeover? Paul has the answer in Colossians 1:19-20:

“For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ,<sup>20</sup> and through him, God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross.”

Last week, we were answering the question, “Who is Jesus?” Well, Paul summarized that in verse 19, by saying, “God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ.” Your version may say “dwell.” Regardless, it again points to the complete deity of Jesus. Jesus was fully God from eternity past and is still today. Yes, 2000 years ago, Jesus took on flesh to become the God-man: fully God; fully Man.

But what was Jesus’ mission or purpose in becoming flesh? Paul says, to reconcile everything to Himself. Jesus was on a rescue mission. Jesus said in Luke 19:10 (ESV), “For the Son of Man came to seek and [to] save the lost.” The Bible uses five keywords to describe the richness of Salvation through Christ: justification, redemption, forgiveness, adoption, and reconciliation. Reconcile means an exchange, or we could say a major upgrade. It’s a relationship upgrade - a relationship makeover.

Paul goes on to say in verse 20 that because of Christ’s death on the cross, there is peace with everything. Okay, we need to pause here, because some people take this to mean Universalism, or everyone gets saved whether they like it or not. This is not what Paul is referring to.

The Universe is marred by sin. Romans 8:22 (NASB) says that “...creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.” We live in a broken universe filled with fallen angels and sinful people. But God will restore Creation. Romans 8:21 says, “that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption...” Peter tells us that “...we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells” (2 Peter 3:13). John saw this in a vision in Revelation 21:1.

Paul says “everything,” and this refers to everything that is chosen or possible for reconciliation. So those who reject the generous offer of Salvation will not be forced into it. Just know this: Jesus is God. And in the end, Creation will be restored. We will be glorified. The layaway will be received.

So this is my challenge for you today: What are you doing to show your anticipation and preparation for the Lord’s coming? How are you living to display your reconciliation that upgrades?

Do people see, hear and feel the newness of your soul? Do they experience the reconciliation in your relationship between you and God? If not, begin today. If so, do one more thing to prepare for the wonderful return of our Savior and King.

When we live out the reality of our reconciliation, all of Creation will experience a taste of winning the day.