

Jesus Christ: Pre-eminent in Creation (Part 1)

A Material Philosophy: Assumes everything that exists is fundamentally material ...all events have material causes; life is governed by physical forces; randomness and chance have shaped our world

A Spiritual Philosophy: Assumes matter is real, but only partial reality; fullness of reality derived from spiritual/eternal realm in which a Creator God resides and rules

- Divinity, a Personal God, constitutes the reality of all that is ultimately real and true
- We must choose between materialism (chance) and spirituality (choice)

Colossians 1:15-22 - Christ the Uncreated Creator

- "the image of the invisible God": Only God can perfectly reveal God
- "the firstborn of all creation": He has priority over all creation
 - ...He created it all and is its acknowledged Head
 - ...He holds it all together and is its sovereign Lord
- He has "first place in everything"
- He is Our Personal Deliverer and Re-Creator

The Case for Chance:

- A Monistic philosophy: everything is of one substance - matter
 - ...we are products of "undirected, material causation"
 - ...life is the result of "random and chance mutations, without design or purpose"
- Weak or missing links in the materialistic chain of thought:
 - ...mind: no real distinction between mind and brain; thought ultimately meaningless
 - ...morality: if world is product of amoral forces at work, morality, or any standard for it, does not exist
 - ...mutations: mostly delete, not add, information to the genetic codes; the bent of nature is toward disorder and degradation
 - ...meaning: materialism yet to offer a compelling narrative of what it means to be human

The Bible Maintains:

- The Ultimate Fact of the Universe Is Not Matter, Survival, Chance - But a Divine, Personal Creator - Col 1:16
 - ...with a primary cause/plan: the universe to be the theater of His glory
 - ...with an instrumental cause/power: He creates and sustains all by His word
 - ...with a final cause/purpose: to sum up everything in Jesus Christ
- We are Brought to Completion/Wholeness Only in Christ - Col 2:9-10
 - ...created by God's choice - so nothing material alone can ever be our Life Source!
 - ...every need, question, yearning is the invitation of God to give Christ first place in Everything