

Pastor Brian's  
Mid-Week Message  
July 29, 2020

**"SETTING UP SYSTEMS"**

*And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17*

I think we all know that moving isn't a simple process. I have long said that God made moving to be difficult because if it were easy we'd be doing it all the time, and little else would get done. Relocation is not as simple as just packing up your stuff, transporting it to a new location and then unpacking it and you're done. There's all sorts of stuff that has to happen around that in order to complete the transition. In our most recent move...here to Gulf Cove...we've just about got things to where we're finished. Our phones are working well, and our internet has finally become functional. The last few steps have been setting up systems so that the things that we're not going to be directly doing ourselves continue to get done. These things include getting the yard mowed and weed-whacked along with having a pool service regularly come by to make sure that we don't poison ourselves and others with polluted water or red tide. From here on everything will run smoothly and life will be free of frustrations...yeah, right! One thing that my science background has long provided me is an awe filled appreciation of the systems that God set up in the creation of the universe, and how He continues to maintain them. In our Bible discussion time after worship this past Sunday we addressed the question of why God created the universe; the world and everything in it, and finally us. God did it all out of love because God IS love. (1 John 4:8) Love necessarily needs someone to express itself to, and that would be us; you and me. God created us for a relationship, between Himself and all of us individually. He also created us to have relationship with one another. We learn from the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of Genesis and from the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of John's Gospel that all things were created for Christ, the Son of God, and indeed all things are created by Him. In Paul's letter to the Church in Colossae (the Book of Colossians) God tells us again that all things are created for Christ and through Christ, and that all things are held together by Him...chapter 1, verse 17 above. Without Christ there is chaos. Without Christ the earth would drift out of its orbit and all life on the planet would quickly die. Without Christ galaxies would collide in a "big bang" of total destruction. Even though the world does not by and large recognize this fact it does not make it any less true. In all things Christ is preeminent. That's what the very next verse tells us. Jesus Christ, the beginning and firstborn from among the dead is the one that God is the one and only whom God is pleased to have all His fullness dwell. And how big is your God? Bigger even bigger than the universe itself. And if God is big enough to keep order in the vastness of the universe I do believe He's big enough to maintain some sort of order in my world, and yours. Recognizing, acknowledging and confessing that fact makes life in this world a whole lot more peaceful than if we don't. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31)