

Series "Jesus Is First"
"The Preeminent Christ"
Colossians 1:15-18
Part-3

Every part of Scripture testifies about Jesus Christ – Luke 24:27.

The apostle lifts up Jesus Christ as first above all. Colossians 1:18

Preeminent – "eminent above or before others, superior, surpassing, distinguished, peerless, supreme." **Colossians – "Jesus Is First"**

Colossians 1 – Doctrine: Christ's Preeminence Declared.

Theme of Colossians – "Jesus Is First." Jesus Christ, in this section, is described as the "Image of the Invisible God" and is presented as "The Creator in All Things" and as "Head of the Church."

Thought Of Our Passage: "Jesus Is To Be First In All Things. Failure To Place Him First Results In Chaos, Error And Death."

1. Verse 15 – Jesus, First In Eternity:

2. Verses 15-17 – Jesus, First In Creation:

3. Verse 18 – Jesus, First In The Church:

1. Verse 15 – Jesus, First In Eternity:

Colossians 1:15 – "He is" – Who is He? It is Jesus Christ. Paul has been praying, then he launched into thanksgiving with a heart of gratitude, Colossians 1:13-14.

"image" – Greek word "eikon" – by which we get our word "Icon," which means "image or representation, exact reproduction." It is the idea of a picture or portrait or sculpture. It even goes deeper to say it also reveals the Character of God.

"Nothing of God is lacking in the person of His Son."

"is the image" – Note not "became the image" but "is the image." Paul is not limiting this to the incarnation but to an eternal relationship!

2 Corinthians 4:4; Philipians 2:6; Hebrews 1:3

Exact representation – means the impression left by a die on a coin or a seal on wax. He is the exact impression of the essence of God.

("is the image") "invisible God" – Jesus is the image of God; His very nature. 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:27; John 1:18

Mankind Bears His Image: Genesis 1:26-27

John 14:8-9

John 1:14

We are dependent upon this Divine image of God in order to know God.

2. Verses 15-17 – Jesus, First In Creation:

Colossians 1:15 – "the firstborn of all creation."

"firstborn" – "first begotten speaks of distinction, of uniqueness, of being preeminent, above it, in rank or sovereignty." It has nothing to do with chronology but everything to do with rank and honor. Positional Priority is the key.

Israel was called firstborn among all the nations; Their high position in the Father's love. Exodus 4:22

Psalms 89:27

(KJV) Colossians 1:15 – "the firstborn of every creature:" – Uses the term "creature" which is speaking of creation.

Colossians 1:16

Verses 16-17 – Jesus' Relationship To The Universe: 4X "All Things"; It is clear that Jesus Christ is creator of all and above all things.

"For by Him" – (Architect) Jesus is the source the creator! John 1:3

1. All Things Are By Him: "all things were created," – (Builder) He is sovereign over everything because He created all things. Genesis 1:1, John 1:1

"both in the heavens" – Genesis 1:16, He made the stars also.

"and on earth," – Psalm 19:1-4.

Romans 1:20

“visible and invisible,” – To atoms, microcosms.

Human Speculation – Man’s attempts to answer the question of our origin.

Divine Revelation – God was there. He tells us in His Word, the Bible.
Genesis 1:1

“whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities” — God created the angels and gave to them their ranks. Ephesians 6:12

2. All Things Are For Him: “all things have been created” – manufacturer, to fabricate, (form originally): “by Him”

“through Him and for Him.” – The word “for” – “toward”; The creation is heading towards something. It started with Jesus and will end with Jesus!

Philippians 2:11

Romans 11:36

Colossians 1:17

3. All Things Are After Him: “He is before all things,” – Before All Created Things; This is the pre-incarnate state of Christ. Prior to His appearance on earth, Jesus always existed, John 1:1-2.

John 8:58

4. All Things Are Under Him: “and in Him all things hold together.” – Word “consist,” which means cohere; word “cohesion” – “stand together, put together.” Jesus is holding the whole universe together.

2 Peter 3:10

3. Verse 18 – Jesus, First In The Church:

Colossians 1:18

Jesus – First In New Creation: “He is also head of the body, the church;” – Jesus is not only over the Natural Creation but also over the New Creation the Church.

Body – Those that are truly Christians are part of this body.

Head – The head is Jesus Christ, the beginning of the church.

“and He is the beginning,” – Jesus is the “Prince of Life,” Acts 3:15; “Captain of Salvation,” Hebrews 2:10; Same word translated “beginning,” it speaks of “One who makes a start, who opens a way for others to follow”; Jesus initiates salvation, opening the way to the Father and granting power to those who follow Him in the pathway of obedience.

“the firstborn from the dead;” – “Supremacy over the realm of the dead,” 1 Corinthians 15:20.

“so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.” – Natural Creation, in New Creation. He is to be first in all things.

Application:

Colossians 1:18 – “so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.”

Is Jesus Christ First Place in Our – Marriages?

Is Jesus Christ First Place in Our – Families?

Is Jesus Christ First Place in Our – Relationships?

Is Jesus Christ First Place in Our – Love?

Is Jesus Christ First Place in Our – Conversation?

Is Jesus Christ First Place in Our – Professions?

Is Jesus Christ First Place in Our – Intellects?

Is Jesus Christ First Place in Our – Time?

Is Jesus Christ First Place in Our – Pleasures?

Is Jesus Christ First Place in Our – Leisure?