

## Colossians 1:15-23

### *The Preeminence of Jesus*

#### Section 1: 1:15

Hebrews 1:1-4.

The phrase "He is the image of the invisible God" is explained in Hebrews 1:1-4. He is the (1) radiance of God's glory, (2) the exact expression of His nature and (3) sustains all things by His powerful word.

Jesus isn't like God...or almost like God...Jesus is fully God. Jesus states clearly that He and the Father are One. John 14:8-11.

Jesus came, saved us and reveal to us how the Godhead works in perfect unity. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are always in perfect unity, working together. Remember, the big deal with Jesus and the Pharisees was that He claimed to be God. Jesus didn't claim to be a prophet, a man in right relationship with God, a man filled with the Spirit...He claimed to be the Son of God. He was Immanuel.

The phrase "firstborn over all creation" is a unique saying in Greek. This phrase is speaking more to rank than chronological order. Jesus is 1<sup>st</sup> place over all creation. Meaning He's the One receiving the inheritance. For example, you have the story of Jacob and Esau. Esau was the firstborn chronologically but Jacob was the rank of firstborn and received the inheritance. Just as it says in Hebrews 1:2, "God has appointed Him heir of all things." Jesus is the rank of 1<sup>st</sup>. He is the head of the church. King of kings, Lord of lords.

#### Section 2: 1:16-17

Genesis 1:1. John 1:1-5. Romans 11:36.

Jesus, being a person of the Godhead, plays a vital role in the creation of all things. Being God, Jesus is not only the author of creation...creation was created for Him. Jesus is the creator and sustainer of ALL life. That includes all life while He was on earth.

- While Jesus is growing up physically...He was creating and sustaining life.
- While Jesus was in the boat with the disciples...He was creating and sustaining life.
- While Jesus was on the cross...He was creating and sustaining life. Apart from Him not one thing is created or sustained.

Jesus holds all things together. He is life. Our only hope to navigate a world full of brokenness...is Jesus.

#### Section 3: 1:18

First place. He will not tolerate a rival.

Exodus 34:14. Deuteronomy 6:14-15. Joshua 24:19. Psalm 78:58. Psalm 79:5.

God does not share glory. God alone is the object of our worship and devotion. Jesus should always come first in your life. Above family, friends, career, national citizenship, health, wealth, etc.

### Sections 1-3 Discussion Question

- ❖ Why does it matter that Jesus is fully God?
- ❖ To know Jesus is to know the Father. Why?
- ❖ Why is it important to remember who created you?
- ❖ Why is it important to remember Who you were created for?
- ❖ Jesus will not be second. How do we ensure that we are making Jesus first place in our lives?

#### Section 4: 1:19-20

Truly Jesus is Immanuel, God with us. Jesus was, is and will always be fully God. Never for even a microsecond has Jesus ever acted, thought or live as anything less than 100% God. Yes, He was fully man, but that was added to His nature of being 100% God. It did not subtract any of His deity.

In Matthew 17 we see Jesus on the mount of transfiguration. We learn from this passage that Jesus was fully God but His humanity acted as a veil that hid His glory from our physical eyes. But it doesn't change the fact that Jesus was always 100% God while on earth.

#### Section 5: 1:21-23a

Before saved...after saved. We have been reconciled BY HIM. We bring nothing to the table. We can't present ourselves as holy, faultless or blameless but Jesus does that for us. Jesus presents us to the Father as holy, faultless and blameless. Not based upon our deeds but upon His mercy and grace.

#### Section 6: 1:23b

We must not only proclaim the gospel...we must become servants of it. We were not created to enjoy this world. We were created to enjoy God. We were not created to serve the whims and desires of the world. We were created to serve the King in His kingdom. We are subjects of the King. The Kingdom of God is not a democracy. We don't get a vote. The King decrees it...we are to respond with unquestioned obedience. See Job 38-40.

Job 38:1-7. Job 40:7-9.

We have no standing to question or reject the Word of God.

### Sections 4-6 Discussion Questions

- ❖ Why must we never separate Jesus from His deity?
- ❖ Why do we need Jesus to put righteousness onto our account for us (see Isaiah 64:6)?
- ❖ Why is it important to remember that we serve at the request of the King?
- ❖ We are reminded many times in Scripture that we are servants of God. Why should we embrace the title of servant?