

Colossians 1:15-18
"Preeminence of Christ"

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1. Introduction

- a. Paul writes letter to Christian in Colosse
- b. Priorities in personal life
 - Keeping important things first
- c. Remember importance of Jesus
- d. Truths concerning Christ

2. Person of Christ (vs 15a)

- a. God is spirit-invisible
- b. But God became visible in Jesus
 - born in Bethlehem
 - died on cross in Jerusalem
 - Heb 1:1-3 God has spoken by His Son
- c. Jesus is the image of God
 - 1 Tim 3:16 great is the mystery of Godliness
 - Col 2:9 All fullness of Godhead lives in Jesus bodily
 - fully God 100% / also fully human

3. Position of Christ (vs 15b-18a)

- a. In creation (vs 15b)
 - firstborn over all creation
 - first position in honor
- b. Jesus highest in rank (vs 16)
 - all things created by Jesus
 - created in heaven & earth
 - * visible
 - * invisible
 - * all things created through Him & for Him
- c. Highest in honor (vs. 17)
 - Jesus lived before all creation
 - in Jesus, all things consist
 - * Heb 1:3 upholds all things by the word of His power
 - Jesus is "before all things"
 - * 1 Pet 3:10 in the end, "elements melt with fervent heat"

- 3d. In the church (vs. ~~18~~ 18a)
- church compared to bride, building grapevine
 - Jesus is the head of the body of Christ (the church)

e. Jesus is...

- the beginning
- firstborn from the dead
- Heb 12:2 looking to Jesus the author & finisher of faith

~~3~~ 4. Priority of Christ (vs 18b-19)

a. That in all things, that He may have the preeminence

- above all things

b. For pleasing (vs. 19)

- in Jesus, all the fulness should live (vs. 19, Col 2:9)

deity
* Emmanuel translated "God with us" (Mt 1:23)

* Is 7:14 prophecy of Messiah's birth