Paul's Declaration of Christ's Preeminence

Colossians 1:16-20

Colossians 1:16-20

16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. 18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

"In All Things He May Have The Preeminence"

- Paul by inspiration, describes our Lord and Master in:
  - 1 Corinthians 2:9-13; Galatians 1:11-12, 16
- These descriptions reveal the nature and authority of Christ which affirm His preeminence
- In this lesson we will study the divine declarations Paul reveals in reference to Christ our Lord

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"preeminence" defined

- "to be first" (protos), "to be preeminent," is used of Christ in relation to the Church, Colossians 1:18
  - *Vine*
- "to be first (in rank or influence): – have the preeminence"
  - *Strong*

*"Paul shows that he is preeminent **in all things** - in the spiritual realm as well as the material. This is the significance of the first part of this statement, **that in all things he might**. The **all things** takes in the material creation and the spiritual creation, the church. He would not have been preeminent in all things if he were not also preeminent over the church. Once he became preeminent here his preeminence over all things was established."*

- Walton Weaver, **Truth Commentary, Philippians & Colossians** - page 357

Christ is Lord

"To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ" – Colossians 1:2

- Christ is *"Lord of lords"*
  - 1 Timothy 6:14-15
- He is not a lord
- He has *"all authority"*
  - Matthew 28:18
- All *"authorities and powers"* are subject to Him
  - 1 Peter 3:21-22

Christ is the Son of God

"We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ …" – Colossians 1:3

- Declared by God the Father to be *"My Beloved Son"*
  - Matthew 17:5
- Christ, the Son was sent by the Father to save the world
  - John 3: 16-17
- Christ repeatedly acknowledged that God was His Father
  - Matthew 7:21; 10:33; 11:27
  - John 6:32; 14:23; 15:10

Christ is King

"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love." – Colossians 1:13

- Christ is King over His Kingdom
  - He is **King** of kings – 1 Timothy 6:14-15
  - Christians are His **Subjects** – Colossians 1:13
  - His **Territory** Includes all the world – Mark 16:15
  - His **Law** the *"Law of Christ"* – Galatians 6:2; James 1:25
  - His **Kingdom** is the Church of Christ – Colossians 1:24; Ephesians 1:19-23

Christ is our Redeemer

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins" – Colossians 1:14

- Christians are redeemed though His shed blood – Matthew 26:28
- Our sins are forgiven – Ephesians 1:7
- Redemption is only in Christ – 1 Peter 1:18-20

Christ Is the Image of the Invisible God

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation" – Colossians 1:15

- *"No man has seen God at any time"* – John 1:18
- *"God is spirit"* – John 4:24
- Christ is the *"express image"* of God – Hebrews 1:3
- To see Christ is to see God – John 14:9-11
- Christians are *"conformed to the image of Christ"*
  - Romans 8:28-30; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 4:9

Christ Is the Firstborn Over All Creation

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation" – Colossians 1:15

- The firstborn was the recipient of special privileges
- Christ is above all of all the creation
  - He is God's **only begotten Son** – Matthew 17:5; John 1:14
  - He is *"King of kings"* – 1 Timothy 6:14-15
  - He is the *"firstborn from the dead"* – Revelation 1:5
  - He is **reigning at God's right hand** – Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3

Christ Is the Creator

"For by Him all things were created, that are in heaven, and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created through him, and for him 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist." – Colossians 1:16-17

- The apostle John made a like declaration – John 1:1-3 *"All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."*
- The Hebrew writer confirmed Christ as the Creator
  - Hebrews 1:1,2 *"Through Whom also He made the worlds"*

Christ Is Eternal

"And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist"

- Colossians 1:17
- This affirms the eternal nature of Christ
- He was in the beginning with God – John 1:1; Genesis 1:26
- Jesus declared He was *"before Abraham"* – John 8:58
- John declared the eternal nature of Christ
  - Revelation 1:8, 11; 21:6; 22:13

Christ Is the Head of the Church

"And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence" – Colossians 1:18

- There is one body
  - Ephesians 4:4; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13
- He is the Head of the body
  - The body is the Church! - Ephesians 1:21-23
- Christ is the **one** and **only** Head over the **one** and **only** body!

Christ Is the Firstborn from the Dead

"And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He may have the preeminence" – Colossians 1:18

- Jesus was not the first to be raised from the dead
  - Matthew 10:5-8; John 11:41-44
- **Jesus was the first to be raised to never die again**
- Paul wrote, *"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."*
  - 1 Corinthians 15:20

Christ is the One In Whom All Fullness Dwells

"For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell" - Colossians 1:19

- *"Fullness"* means completeness
  - *Gk. -πλήρωμα – pleroma –* repletion or completion, i.e. (subjectively) what fills (as contents, supplement, copiousness, multitude), or (objectively) what is filled (as container, performance, period):--which is put in to fill up, piece that filled up, fulfilling, full, fullness. **– Strongs**
- In Christ is *"the fullness of the Godhead bodily"* – Colossians 2:9
- Christ possesses all the attributes of Deity - *"the fullness"*!
  - Eternal Nature, Omnipresent, Omniscient, Omnipotent

Christ Is Our Reconciler

"And, by Him to reconcile all things unto Himself; by him, I say, whether things on earth, or things in heaven having made peace through the blood of his cross. And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and blameless and above reproach in His sight: If indeed you continue in the faith grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel …" – Colossians 1:20-23

- Aliens and enemies by wicked works can be made whole by the blood of Christ when they obey – Romans 6:17-18, 20-23
- By, remaining *"grounded and steadfast"* in His sight!

Paul Declared Christ Is …

- *Lord*
- *The Son of God*
- *King*
- *Our Redeemer*
- *The Image of the Invisible God*
- *The Firstborn Over All Creation*
- *The Creator*
- *Eternal*
- *The Head of the Church*
- *The Firstborn from the Dead*
- *The One in Whom all Fullness Dwells*
- *Our Reconciler*

"… that in all things He may have the preeminence"
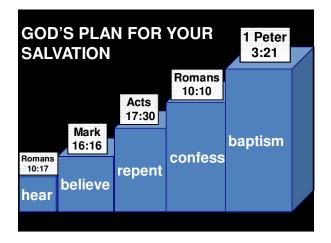

Preeminence belongs to Christ and Him alone

- *"And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He may have the preeminence"* – Colossians 1:18

Christians are made perfect and complete in Him

- *"And you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power"* – Colossians 2:10
- *"Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God"* – Colossians 4:12

GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR SALVATION

Romans 10:17 — hear

Mark 16:16 — believe

Acts 17:30 — repent

Romans 10:10 — confess

1 Peter 3:21 — baptism