

## 4. The supremacy of Christ

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The false teachers in Colosse, like the false teachers of our own day, would not deny the importance of Jesus Christ. They would simply dethrone Him by giving Him prominence but not preeminence. In their doctrines, Jesus Christ was one of many "beginnings" that proceeded from God and through which men could reach God. It was this claim that Paul refuted in this section of the letter to the Colossians.

Probably no paragraph in the New Testament contains more concentrated doctrine about the person of Jesus Christ than this one.

### A. THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD

*Colossians 1:15a He is the image of the invisible God,*

The Greek word for 'image' is 'eikon' where we get our English word "icon." The apostle Paul used the word image to make this fact clear. It means "an exact representation." The writer to the Hebrews affirms that Jesus Christ is "*the express image of His Person*" from Hebrews 1:3. Jesus was able to say, "*He that has seen Me, has seen the Father*" in John 14:9. It is only in Jesus Christ that the invisible God is revealed perfectly. It means that since no mere creature can perfectly reveal God, Jesus Christ must be God.

### B. THE FIRSTBORN OVER ALL CREATION

*Colossians 1:15b the firstborn over all creation.*

This is where Jehovah's Witnesses people get very happy to explain their fabricated doctrines to the people who do not know the truth of Jesus. Obviously, they didn't understand the definition of the Greek word "prototokos." It does not refer to time, rather to place or status. Firstborn of all Creation means "Headship of all Creation." His headship of all creation does not mean that He was born first.

For example, king Solomon was certainly not born first of all of David's sons, yet he was named the firstborn. Jesus Christ is not a created being. He is eternal God.

### C. BY HIM ALL THINGS WERE CREATED

*Colossians 1:16a 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.*

Now we come to the portion of the Scripture that is used by a cult group to justify their doctrines even though they are the ones who completely misunderstood and twisted it. They know that if they accept this portion of the Word of God, they must come to the realization that they are in a cult.

Jehovah's Witnesses' bible, the New World Translation states, "by him all other things were created." They inserted the word "other" in v16 to claim that Jesus is not the Jehovah God, but a son of God. Actually, Jehovah's Witnesses is nothing more than a reincarnation of Gnosticism from the first century.

Ever since the evolution theory came into the picture, there have been constant arguments between the believers of the Creation Fact and the evolution theory followers. There are more people who would rather believe evolution because they think that they don't have to be accountable to Almighty God who created everything in heaven and earth. But they remain to be wrong. Though they claim themselves as scien-

tific people, yet they are extremely illogical and fanatic in their own created religion – the evolution theory. It takes more faith to believe what they claim than simply believing that our God created everything.

Jesus created all things. It is no wonder that the winds and waves obeyed Him, and diseases and death fled from Him because He is Master over all.

Jesus created all things, including angels – 1/3 of them became fallen angels by their own choice.

On a side note, for these fallen angels, demons, have you ever wondered why they don't get to have salvation like humans since they chose to walk away from God's goodness? What is the difference between human and angel? We humans have a spirit just like angels, but we have human bodies that require redemption through Jesus Christ, but angels don't have that case. That is why fallen angels cannot have salvation as we do.

All things are under Jesus' command. Nothing escapes from our Lord Jesus' acknowledgment. Without His permission, nothing will happen including what the devil wants to do. Job chapters 1 and 2 are good examples.

#### **D. ALL THINGS WERE CREATED FOR HIM**

*Colossians 1:16b All things were created through Him and for Him.*  
Everything exists in Jesus, for Him, and through Him. He is the object of all creations. We are created for His pleasure.

We all once were unbelievers in the past. Until we came to know Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we knew that something was missing in our lives. We couldn't be satisfied unless we come to know Him. Augustine of Hippo, the 4th-century theologian, said, "We are restless until we come to rest in God."

The apostle Paul's use of 3 different prepositions in v16 – "by," "through," and "for" is one way of refuting the philosophy of the false teachers. For centuries, the Greek philosophers had taught that everything needed a primary cause, an instrumental cause, and a final cause. The primary cause is the plan, the instrumental cause of the power, and the final cause of the purpose. When it comes to Creation, Jesus Christ is the primary cause, because He planned it. He is the instrumental cause because He produced it. He is the final cause because He did it for His own pleasure.

#### **E. IN HIM ALL THINGS CONSIST – BE HELD TOGETHER (NIV)**

*Colossians 1:17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*  
A guide took a group of people through an atomic laboratory and explained how all matter was composed of rapidly moving electric particles. The tourists studied models of molecules and were amazed to learn that matter is made up primarily of space. During the question period, one visitor asked, "If this is the way matter works, what holds it all together?" For that, the guide had no answer. Because the scientists don't know how these atoms are staying together, they call this holding agent as "Atomic Glue" of which ingredients they have no idea.

However, mankind has figured out how to split these atoms. When they were able to split these atoms, they learned that a tremendous amount of energy gets released

instantly that would blow up everything around for many miles and destroy everything in its path. That is how an atom bomb works.

But we know who is holding every atom in its place. Again, this is another affirmation that Jesus Christ is God. Only God exists before all of creation, and only God can make creation held together. To make Jesus Christ less than God is to dethrone Him.

## **F. CHRIST'S SUPREMACY OVER ALL**

There is really nothing more glorious than to know that Christ reigns over our lives. He reigns over this world, He reigns over the cosmos, over every creature and over every power in creation. So much of the Christian life is rediscovering and re-savoring the fundamental truth that everything hangs on Jesus.

Allow me to bring up 7 important points to you:

**1) No other God:** We must know the supremacy of Christ, the supremacy of His deity – equal with God the Father in all of His attributes – the radiance of His glory and the exact image of His nature. I pray we will know the supremacy of His eternity, which makes the mind want to explode with the indescribable thought that Jesus Christ never had a beginning. He is simply there – an absolute reality.

**2) No one wiser:** We must know the supremacy of His never-changing constancy. To have virtues that never change, a character whose commitment is constant yesterday, today, and forever, and whose knowledge makes the Library of Congress look like a matchbox and all the information on the internet look like the alphabet song.

We must know the supremacy of His wisdom, which has never been perplexed by any problem whatsoever, nor can He be counseled by any person or any being in the universe.

**3) No king stronger:** We must know the supremacy of His authority.

*Matthew 28:18 All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.* He changes times and seasons; deposes kings and sets up kings; does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can control His hand or say to Him, "What have You done?"

We must know the supremacy of His providence, without which not a single bird in the deepest part of the Amazon forest has ever fallen off any tree branch, and without which not a single hair of any head turns white or black.

We must know the supremacy of His Word, which upholds the universe.

*Hebrews 1:3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high*

**4) No judge purer:** We must know the supremacy of His purity. He never sinned. He never had one millisecond of a bad attitude or a sinful lustful thought.

We must know the supremacy of His trustworthiness – that He always keeps His Word, absolutely, without fail – and the supremacy of His justice. He will render all accounts settled in the universe, either on the cross or in hell.

We must know the supremacy of His patience. He has endured you and me for decades. He has endured the world, and He brings the sun out to shine on it. Can you imagine why the sun rose this morning on this wicked world, so full of us sinners?

**5) No servant more obedient:** We must know the supremacy of His servanthood – like sovereign obedience – He kept every one of His Father’s commands and embraced the cross with total willingness. He is meek and lowly and tender. He will not break a bruised reed or quench smoldering flax.

**6) No God more wrathful or gracious:** We must know the supremacy of His wrath. One day it will explode on this world from Heaven such that all who have rejected Him will call for rocks to crush their heads lest they have to face the wrath of the Lamb.

*Revelation 6:16 and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! 17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”*

When people see Christians being beheaded for their faith and we hear someone ask, “Where is your supreme Christ?” Our answer is easy: “He is in Heaven storing up almighty wrath in fury to pour out on all those who commit such sins. And you’d better get right with Him and repent, or you will all likewise perish.”

We must know the supremacy of His grace, which gives life to spiritually dead rebels like us, awakens faith in hell-bound haters of God, and justifies the ungodly with His own righteousness.

We must know His love. He died for us while we were yet sinners and He gives to the undeserving the ability of ever-increasing joy in making much of Him.

**7) Jesus reigns over all:** He is always infinitely in control over everything and every being. He is over all the earth, from the top of Mount Everest to the deepest bottom of the Pacific Ocean. He is sovereign over all plants and animals, from the peaceful blue whale to the microscopic killer viruses. He is supreme over all weather and all movements of the earth – earthquakes and avalanches – and over all chemical processes that heal or destroy – cancer, AIDS, malaria, CoronaVirus.

He is supreme over all countries and governments and armies, terrorists, kidnappings, and beheadings. He is supreme over all nuclear threats. He reigns over politics and elections and debates, over media and news and entertainment.

As the 19th-century Dutch Prime Minister and theologian Abraham Kuyper famously said: “There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: ‘Mine!’” He rules with absolute supremacy. And though it may not seem like it now, it is only a matter of time until He is revealed from heaven in flaming fire to give relief to those who trust Him and righteous vengeance on those who don’t.

I am going to read what will happen to the unbelievers who would survive the Great Tribulation from the Book of Revelation chapter 19:

*Revelation 19:11-21 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except*

Himself. 13 He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. 17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, 18 that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great." 19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. 20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.