

THIS WEEK, I WILL SHOW CHRIST'S PREEMINENCE OVER ALL BY



WEEK 4 – THE PREEMINENCE OF JESUS

PART 1

COLOSSIANS 1:15–16

TODAY'S VERSES:

Colossians 1:15-16

1 Timothy 1:17

John 1:18

Hebrews 1:3

Genesis 1:26-27

John 8

John 11:4 & 35

Luke 8:22-25

Luke 17

Mark 5:38-42

Psalm 89:27

WEEK 4 – THE PREEMINENCE OF JESUS
PART 1
COLOSSIANS 1:15–16

We are going to take a few weeks to look at Colossians 1:15-20 as it is one of the highest Christological statements anywhere in the Bible. Yes, we celebrate Christmas, Easter, Good Friday, but sometimes forget how great Jesus is even in the midst of those holidays. Paul starts like this **Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.**

How would you describe Jesus?**1. Jesus is Preeminent in Eternity**

“The image of the invisible God” means that, in Jesus, we receive a deeper understanding of God than we could ever have without Him. The Greek word for “image” means “an image or representation.” This is not simply a picture; it means He is the revelation of what God is really like. As Jesus is the image of God, He is what we were meant to be in terms of character. We were created in His image (Genesis 1:26-27). The preeminence of Jesus acknowledges our own sin and need for a savior.

Describe what God is like by looking at Jesus. How does that challenge the stereotypes our world wants to place upon Him?**• Through Jesus, we know that God is merciful.**

Jesus extends mercy in the face of blatant guilt. He does not overlook the sin or ignore it; Jesus took the penalty for sin by dying in our place. God’s justice is met in Jesus because He is merciful. What we know about God, what we know about the Father, is that He is quick to extend mercy to those who need it. We see that because those who receive Jesus receive it.

• Through Jesus, we know that God is compassionate.

Jesus, in His earthly life, shows that He feels the heaviness of what our brokenness has brought into the world; it is complex and beautiful. He is moved in compassion toward those who are experiencing loss. We know that God is compassionate by observing the compassion of Jesus.

• Through Jesus, we know that God is ALL powerful.

Jesus had power over life and death. In Luke 8:22-25 Jesus shows power over nature when He calms a storm. In Luke 17 Jesus shows power over disease when ten lepers come to Him and ask for healing. As they are walking away, all ten are healed, but only one comes back and falls at the feet of Jesus to worship Him.

Why do you think that many people who don’t believe in God are so hostile toward the idea of there being a God? Why is there so much push back around surrendering our lives to Jesus, even when He has shown Himself to be so good?

In Mark 5, Jesus is met by a man filled with demons; no one could help or hold this man. Hollywood does not reflect how the Bible portrays the battle between good and evil. The demon-filled man says, “Jesus, have You come here to destroy us?” Demons in the New Testament seem to be the ones who get it right. “Oh, Holy One of God. Have You come here to destroy us?” **Hebrews 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.**

What do we “get right” or wrong about who Jesus is?**2. Jesus is Preeminent in creation. He is “the firstborn of all creation.”**

“Firstborn” means first in rank or honor. When Paul called Jesus “the firstborn over all creation,” he meant that the highest honor belongs to Him. Jesus is completely supreme in creation! Why? Because He is the creator. We should fall down and worship because Jesus is Creator of all!

IN your life today, what or who gets preeminence? Are your decisions/actions in line with this answer?

Everything began with Jesus and will end with Jesus. Paul is pushing for a view of Jesus that is so high and lofty that it must humble us when we see the love and grace He has lavished upon us.