

THIS WEEK, I WILL REJOICE IN CHRIST'S SUPREMACY BY...



WEEK 5 – THE PREEMINENCE OF JESUS

PART 2

COLOSSIANS 1:15–20

TODAY'S VERSES:

Colossians 1:15-20

Philippians 3:10

Hebrews 12:2-3

Mark 10:29-30

WEEK 5 – THE PREEMINENCE OF JESUS
PART 2
COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

This is our second week looking specifically at what it means that Jesus is over all things (the Creator, the supreme, the highest). This is one of the main reasons that Paul writes the letter to the Colossian church the way that he does—to show the preeminence of Jesus. Colossian 1:15-20 teaches us that Jesus is God in one of the clearest manners, and that He is the firstborn over all creation.

**What does it mean that Jesus is not born first, but is “firstborn?”
Why is that distinction important?**

In the ancient world there was “the law of the primogenitor,” which simply meant that the firstborn was entitled to all of the wealth, status, standing, and power of the father; **the firstborn was essentially equal with the father.** Paul says that Jesus is absolutely equal in power and dignity with God the Father. “Repletely” is an adverb that means in “a replete manner,” which means full or filled. When talking about the Trinity, Paul says the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit dwell “repletely” in each other. It is not just that Jesus is **fully** God, but God is fully in Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:18 He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
He is beginningless, Creator, all the fullness of God...and dead. Charles Wesley wrote, “*Tis mystery all: th’ Immortal dies, Who can explore his strange design?*” Paul hammers this to the Colossians because it is so easy to forget what God did in Christ.

In what ways are you prone to forget all that Jesus did and who He is? What truths do you find yourself returning to?

- 1. A reordering** – We cannot relate to Jesus like we do anything else in our lives; He is the only one that is non-negotiable.

Any view, any conviction, any idea, any behavior, any relationship—we often ascribe to it language of supremacy. Tim Keller wrote, “*You can’t know the absolute if you absolutize anything, whether it’s chocolate or sex or anything.*” If Jesus is the One True God, there is nothing in the middle—it is all or nothing. He alone is the One who is supreme above all else.

**Is there anything in your life you are trying to hide from God?
What about His character reassures us we can entrust ALL of our life—and heart—to Him?**

- 2. A life of relinquishment** – He died for us; Jesus relinquished for us first.

Jesus faced all of the justice of God for our sin. He paid the penalty on the cross; He died at the hands of the people He made. He left His throne for the mission of saving us from God’s wrath against our own sin. When we become a Christian, we *enter* Jesus’ adventure; we become part of His story. All of the people around you who say they love Jesus, *they* are part of that story with you. You are not on your own; you are not alone.

What is your ultimate desire or goal? What do you resist relinquishing for Jesus?

- 3. A life of rejoicing** – Jesus faced what He did because of joy.

In our life, we must remember there is a joy set before us. You are already a child of God if you have trusted in Jesus; there is a future Kingdom coming centered in Jesus’ rule and reign. Jesus gave Himself for us; there isn’t anything greater than that.

How does Christ’s supremacy naturally bring joy?