

TITLE: Colossians (Lesson 3)

TEXT: Col. 1:15-20

INTRO: “The next passage we’re approaching in Colossians is a powerfully-reasoned presentation about the preeminence of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul felt, as Moody later did, that nothing can attack error like the clear presentation of the glory and supremacy of Christ. The best defense is a good offense.” *David Jeremiah*

I. (vs. 15a, 19) Who Jesus is in relationship to the Father.

A. “Who is the image of the invisible God...”

1. God the Father is invisible.

NOTE: I Tim. 1:17; I John 4:12a; John 1:18

2. There is an invisible realm created by God. (See vs. 16)

3. Jesus is the *image* of the Father.

NOTE: “In Christ the invisible God became visible.” Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:1-3; John 14:7-9

II. (vs. 15b-17, 20) Who Jesus is in relationship to all creation.

A. “the firstborn of every creature:”

NOTE: The context demands the word *firstborn* means *first in rank* as Jesus is over all creation. Compare the reference to David (Ps. 89:27) with Christ (Rev. 19:16).

B. “For by him were all things created...”

1. “All things” is repeated four times in vs. 16-17.

NOTE: John 1:1-3; Heb. 1:2

C. “...all things were created by him, and for him...”

NOTE: Jesus is the goal of all creation. Rom. 11:36; Rev. 1:8

D. “And he is before all things...”

NOTE: John 8:52-59; Ex. 3:14; John 17:5

E. “...and by him all things consist.”

NOTE: Jesus is the sustainer of all creation. Heb. 1:3 He is the glue that holds us!

F. “And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.”

1. We need to be reconciled to God as individuals.

NOTE: Sin has separated us from God. The cross offers reconciliation. Rom. 5:10

2. All creation is out of sync.

NOTE: The curse is the result of sin (Gen. 3:17-19). Just as Jesus has reconciled believers to Himself, he will also one day reconcile creation (Rom. 8:18-25).

III. (vs. 18) Who Jesus is in relationship to His Church.

A. “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.”

1. Jesus must be preeminent in His church!

NOTE: All believers make up His church (I Cor. 12:13). Epaphras and Paul feared that Jesus might lose His preeminence in the church in Colossae because of false teachers.

2. Jesus also needs to be preeminent in our individual lives!

