

The Bible Companion Series

# *THE PRE-EMINENCE OF CHRIST*

**"And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.  
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 1:17,18

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## **A Study of the Letter to the Colossians**

**A Bible-Believing Study Guide**

**an AV 1611 Bible Companion**

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# **Colossians Chapter One**

## **The Messiah Part 2**

**(Colossians 1:15-20)**

### **I. Introduction**

**A. Continuing to work through chapter 1 of Colossians**

**B. Focus of the chapter is, What Christians Need to Know About Their Messiah**

**C. Paul directs our attention on two great truths:**

1. What God did for us
2. And who Jesus the Messiah is
3. If people could settle those two truths, there would be amazing revival

**D. There was and sometimes is MASSIVE confusion about those two subjects**

1. Roman Catholicism, Islam, and all religions are built on what WE must do for God
2. Judeo-Christianity is all about what GOD has done for us through Christ!

**E. Paul, with clear direction and inspiration from the Holy Spirit answers the heresies that swarmed around in those days of the middle of the First century**

1. It is so easy to make everything fit your own private interpretation
2. And as quickly as churches sprung up, men and women teachers would creep in and turn people's attention away from the simplicity of Christ (2Cor 11:2-4)

**F. That's why we STAY with the Bible only – and let the Bible interpret itself**

### **II. Background**

**A. LAST WEEK - What God has done (1:12-14)**

1. God made us all “meet” (able) as partakers of the great inheritance of the saints (1:12)
2. Delivered us from the power of darkness
3. Translated us into the kingdom of His Son (1:13)
4. Redeemed us (1:14)!
5. God did it all by and through Jesus Christ (2Corinthians 5:18,19)
6. It is all of God! Not of ourselves!
7. WE just received it (John 1:12) – accepted it as the gift it is

**B. TONIGHT - Who Christ is (Col 1:15-20) – His Extraordinary Characteristics**

1. What Paul now describes is the awesomeness of the lowly Jesus! There ought to be no doubt WHO and WHAT this Man from Galilee really is! Get your paper and pens out
2. This Man Jesus has many titles:
  - a. He is the Christ – 24 times in this small epistle (1:2,3,4...). It is the Greek word for Messiah. Anointed, chosen One of God (John 1:41; 4:25,26)
  - b. He is the Son of God (1:13)
  - c. Lord (1:2,3,10; 2:6; 3:16,17...)
  - d. Saviour (1:12-14)
3. But He is described as more than those!
4. Jesus is Simply Amazing! (Mark 4:35-41)
  - a. Several little ships crossing the Sea of Galilee
  - b. A great storm of wind and waves comes against them
  - c. Water in the boat to the full
  - d. Jesus is asleep!

- e. "Master, carest thou not that we perish?"
- f. Jesus stood and CALMED the storm in an instant!
- g. "Why are ye so fearful?"
- h. And they feared exceedingly!
- i. "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

### III. Message – What Christians Need to Know About Their Messiah

#### A. Who Christ is (Col 1:15-20) – Three truths tonight

##### 1. *He is the IMAGE of the invisible God (1:15) – He is What God is Like!*

- a. What?
- b. How can something invisible have an image?
- c. Well, this is a way of describing the reality of the Trinity
  - 1) Jesus said, if you saw HIM, you actually were looking at God the Father (John 14:8,9)
  - 2) He was equal with God (John 5:18)
  - 3) Jesus was exactly like God in everything that is invisible
  - 4) GOD does not have arms, hair, lips, ears, toes, etc.
  - 5) But all that God was, Jesus was the image of them all
- d. By-the-way, You find the Trinity throughout just this one epistle:
  - 1) God the Father (1:2,3,12,19; 2:2, 17)
  - 2) The Lord Jesus Christ (1:3,13,19; 2:2,5)
  - 3) The Spirit (1:8)
- e. Jesus is what our invisible God looks like!
  - 1) Not His hair, or hands, or feet
  - 2) But His eternality
  - 3) His holiness
  - 4) His perfection
  - 5) His glory
  - 6) His power
  - 7) His attention
  - 8) His self-sacrifice
  - 9) His wisdom
  - 10) His meekness
  - 11) His love
  - 12) His compassion
  - 13) His patience
  - 14) His care
- f. What a powerful way to describe Jesus!
  - 1) As if HE was Jehovah walking around in flesh!
  - 2) He is what God is like, if He were here!
  - 3) Jesus and Jehovah are the same!
  - 4) It's just that one is invisible, and the other is visible!
- g. Summary: Jesus the Messiah is the Image of GOD

##### 2. *He is the FIRSTBORN of every creature (1:15) – The Lord of the Universe!*

- a. Probably the most difficult
- b. God created JESUS (not another God) a little lower than the angels (Heb 2:9)

- 1) God did NOT create another god – He created the Messiah
  - 2) God made a BODY for the Word (Heb 10:5,6,10)
  - 3) WHY? So He, AS God, could die AS a Man (Heb 2:9)
  - 4) So, Jesus as a Man, was created - was born – had a beginning, 2,000 years ago
  - 5) As the Son of God – the firstborn Son of God – we are added later!
- c. That body, even though created in the womb of Mary 4,000 years AFTER creation, was not subservient to the rest of creation, but was as if He was the first created – He was the Eldest born of God
- 1) Paul is talking about the eldest like a family
  - 2) The Messiah is the eldest brother of all life in the universe
  - 3) As the firstborn in a family of brothers (that have been born again into His family), He is in charge! Put in charge by the Father
  - 4) He is more important than all His creation no matter how great they were
    - a) Greater than His firstborn ISRAEL (Ex 4:22) firstborn amongst nations
    - b) Greater than Ephraim – the firstborn tribe even though not first to be born (Jer 31:9)
    - c) Greater than king David (Ps 89:20,24-27)
- d. The Messiah had TWO natures: 1 very human, and the other pure DEITY
- 1) Jesus was NOT just a Prophet, or Rabbi/Teacher
  - 2) He is referred to as “the everlasting father” (Isaiah 9:6)
  - 3) And as being “from everlasting” (Micah 5:2)
  - 4) So, HE is the oldest living Being there is, even though He was born 4,000 years after Creation!
- e. Get your head around THAT!
- f. Summary: Jesus is at the Head of all Creation – the most important Being ever to exist in this Universe!!

### 3. *He is the CREATOR of ALL things (1:16) – All Things came from His Designs*

- a. NOW we get to the BIG stuff! Absolutely MIND blowing!
- b. By him were all things created (Gen 1:1-3; John 1:1-3)
  - 1) Go back and re-read Genesis 1:1-3 Jesus is THERE!
  - 2) John 1:1-3 says Jesus created everything there is – nothing that exists outside of God was created except by the Son of God! The MAN called JESUS!
  - 3) The JW’s say that God created Jesus, and THEN Jesus created everything else! WRONG!
  - 4) As a matter of fact, the New World Translation (Jehovah's Witness version) adds the word "other" to read "*because by means of him all [other] things were created,*" thus giving a false meaning other than that given in the original inspired Greek text.
  - 5) Jesus Created everything in heaven
    - a) All the angels: Seraphim’s, Cherubims
    - b) All the mansions
    - c) The Temple in heaven
    - d) And all the cities there – including the New Jerusalem
  - 6) Created everything that is in the earth
    - a) We build stuff ON the earth
    - b) But Jesus made the earth and everything in it!
    - c) Which includes the dirt, the water, the air, the atoms
    - d) All the stars, the planets, the galaxies

- e) Jesus created them all!
- 7) Everything that is Visible AND Invisible
  - a) Visible things are what we see, handle, can sense
  - b) Invisible things are forces like
    - (i) Gravity
    - (ii) Magnetism
    - (iii) The strong force inside the atoms
    - (iv) Germs, virus'
    - (v) How about that? The Bible does not deny that there are invisible things that Scientists are only just now discovering
    - (vi) Like Protons, neutrons, electrons, gluons, quarks, and maybe even the Higgs-Boson particle!
  - c) They were all created by an Intelligent Designer – JESUS!
- 8) Even all authorities and powers
  - a) Whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers
  - b) Kings, Queens, Garda, Police, Judges
  - c) Good or bad
  - d) JESUS is sovereign – He is Lord (Philp 2:9-11)
- c. Some things were NOT created by Jesus – that Jesus is not responsible for
  - 1) Devils/demons
    - a) They were a creation of THE devil (Rev 13:15)
    - b) But they are under the dominion of the Lord Jesus
  - 2) The consequences of your sins
    - a) God did not make you stupid after you did drugs – YOU did that to yourself
    - b) God did not kill the family in the other car run into by the drunkard
  - d. All these things were created by Him, and more importantly FOR Him – not primarily for us!
  - e. Summary: Contained within the lowly Man called Jesus was the ALL-POWERFUL CREATOR of everything that exists besides God Himself!

#### **IV. Conclusion**

##### **A. How awesome is the lowly Jesus?**

1. He is the Image of the invisible God – He is what God is like, if He were here!
2. The Firstborn of every creature – the Lord of this universe!
3. The Creator of ALL things – all things came from HIS designs

##### **B. There are a few more descriptions of Who Christ is...**

1. He is Eternal – Existed before all created things
2. He is the Sustainer of the Universe (1:17)
3. The Head of the body, the church
4. The Beginning (1:18) of the Church
5. The Firstborn Son of God - from the dead
6. In Him all fulness dwells

##### **C. But why all the almost tedious descriptions of who Jesus is?**

1. Because there were some smooth talkers who used fancy talk, and powerful persuasion to move people away from their focus on Jesus
2. There were so many heresies floating around – still are
  - a. That Jesus is NOT God – only a great teacher or prophet
  - b. That Jesus did NOT create everything that exists – Genesis 1 is a myth
  - c. That Jesus is NOT the head of every church – but that prophets and apostles are
  - d. That Jesus did NOT reconcile the entire world to God – only an elect few

**D. “What manner of man is this?”**