

Col202 – Supreme Preeminence - Colossians 1:15-20

We have before us **today** one of the **most important passages** ever **written** – explaining **WHO Jesus Christ** is

We've **made it clear** that in the **Col church** – in **61 AD** there was **already** a “**New Teaching**” **slipping** into the **church**

& in **that teaching** was a **subtle attempt** to remove the **Preeminence** of **Jesus Christ**

This “New” Teaching - promoted ‘**other**’ ways to **God** & **Special spiritual knowledge** & **experience**

& **Paul** is **addressing** the **Errant Teachings** of **61 AD** **the same way** we want to **address similar** teachings **today**

By **CLEARLY holding up the Person** of **Jesus Christ** so **we** can **understand** - **WHO** Jesus **Truly IS**

& **THAT** is the **answer** – **The only answer**

to **ANY Errant teaching** that would **slip into** the **church** (**whether in the 1st century or TODAY**)

Let's Pray

Colossians 1:15(a) (NLT)

15 Christ is the visible image of the invisible God . . .

***Jesus Christ is the ‘Visible Image’ of the Invisible God
He is God – EXPRESSED to us***

The word used here for ‘Visible Image’ MEANS:

Jesus is the Exact, Perfect, Representation of God

**Jesus Christ is not only
the ‘Exact Visible Image’ of the invisible God**

But Colossians 1:15(b) says (NLT)

***15 . . . He existed before anything was created and is supreme
over all creation,***

Your Bible MAY SAY simply “*the firstborn over all creation*”

**BUT – in our Vernacular (Language style) – we THINK
‘Firstborn’ MEANS – FIRST to Be Born**

BUT – the Bible – Def does NOT mean that

<u>I THINK</u> that <u>may</u> be <u>WHY Mormon’s</u> believe <u>Jesus & Lucifer</u> are <u>Brothers</u> (Jesus 1st, Lucifer 2nd)
--

BUT – the Word DOESN’T MEAN – Birth Order

The WORD Translated Firstborn MEANS –
Comes BEFORE all Else - - & is SUPREME over all else

**THAT'S What the Word MEANS
& THAT is WHO Jesus Christ Truly IS**

& so – the NLT simply WRITES WHAT the Word MEANS

(again) Colossians 1:15(b) (NLT)

15 . . . He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,

It MEANS – Jesus Christ is Preeminent & Supreme

He existed - BEFORE all creation
& - He is Supreme Over all creation

Jesus is the LOGOS From John Ch 1

He is God EXPRESSED to Mankind - (God in Expression)

& HE is the EXACT, PERFECT Expression of God

Jesus Christ – The Eternal LOGOS – He is GOD

John 1:1–4 (NLT)

1 In the beginning the Word (Logos – God in expression) already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He existed in the beginning with God.

3 God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him.

4 The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to everyone.

God came to us - - in the person of Jesus Christ

Jesus came to us - AS GOD

because we could not reach God on our own

There was previously – a “Permanent Separation”
between us & God - - because of our sin

& there was no way

we could be reconciled to God - on our own

& So God CAME to us – in the Person of Jesus Christ

To pay the FULL Penalty for our sin - &

To offer us – HIS righteousness Before God

**& If there were some other way - any other way – for that to happen
God would not have had to make this ultimate sacrifice for us**

Over in HEBREWS 1:3 - we see both

the Supreme Preeminence of Jesus Christ –

AND His purpose for coming to earth

Hebrews 1:3 (NLT)

3 The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.

Jesus Christ

Radiates God's own glory

Expresses the very character of God

Sustains everything by the mighty power of his command

& Jesus Came to earth – cleanse us from our sins
because there was no other way !

Jesus Christ is

NOT just "a way" to God

NOT just a prophet of God

NOT just a Good Teacher

Jesus Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed
before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,

& then – Colossians 1:16 says (NLT)

16 for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms
and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we
can't see— such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in
the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for
him.

THAT is an incredible Vs

We cannot say we believe the Bible – AND SAY
there is any other being - EQUAL to Jesus Christ

The Word of God does not give us that option

The Bible clearly sets Jesus Christ apart
over all of creation

To put Jesus any lower than God's Word PUTS HIM
is to lose the central truth of the Entire New Testament

The word at the Beginning of V.16 translated - "THROUGH Him"

MEANS both -- "The Location of" & "The instrument of"

It'd where we get the Phrase
IN Christ, & THRU Christ - all things were created

ALL things - in heaven & on earth – visible & invisible
were created "IN" Christ - & - "THRU" Christ

BUT – NOT JUST created - IN Christ & THRU Christ
they were ALSO created – FOR Christ

As the end of V.16 says
... Everything was created through him and for him.

Guys - Jesus Christ is Supreme & Preeminent above ALL creation
in every realm - Earthly & Spiritual

The false teachers in Colossae were saying
there was Spiritual Knowledge - HIGHER than Jesus

But that CAN'T be – because ALL Spiritual THINGS
were created THRU Him - & FOR Him !

So - how can there be Anything HIGHER than
The One THRU Whom & FOR Whom – ALL Things were Created

When the Bible says Jesus Christ is Supreme & Preeminent
over ALL things – It means - ALL THINGS !

That's what Eph 1:20-22 says - NLT

20 [God's power] raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms.

21 Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come.

22 God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church.

You & I - have the ability to be found "IN CHRIST" - by God
& to be seated "WITH HIM" in the heavenly realms

WHY would we want to

follow some other way to Heaven
or run after some "new spiritual experience"

How do you get higher than
. . . far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come.

When you have Jesus Christ – you have reached the top

there is NOTHING ABOVE Him
there is NO OTHER way to God

So – In Review . . . so far ;

V.15a - Jesus Christ is The Visible Image of the Invisible God

V.15b - He is Preeminent over all creation

**V.16a – All things in heaven & on earth, tangible & spiritual,
have been created IN Christ - & THRU Christ**

V.16b – & Not ONLY - IN & THRU Christ – But FOR Christ

& we've only read 2 Vs's

cont'g in Colossians 1:17 (NLT)

17 He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.

Jesus Christ existed before anything else

He is The "I AM" that existed before all things

Before there was a "before"

Before time began . . . Jesus Christ IS The I AM

In John 8:57–58 (NLT)

57 The people said (to Jesus), "You aren't even fifty years old. How can you say you have seen Abraham?"

58 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I Am!"

& **they immediately** tried to **stone Him** –

because they **knew** He was **saying** he **was God** – **The I AM**

(again) Colossians 1:17 (NLT)

17 He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.

Before there was a “THING” – there was the “I AM”
& he holds all creation together

Which is exactly what we read earlier – in **Hebrews 1:3**
he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command.

Not only is **Jesus** Christ **BEFORE** - **All things**

Not only are all things **CREATED** - **Thru Him - & for Him**

But all things **ARE HELD TOGETHER** - **By Him**

He is **Supreme** above all - & **Preeminent** above all

Romans 11:36 (NLT)

36 For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory . . .

If you call Jesus Christ your **Lord** today

then you serve the **Absolute, Supreme, Preeminent**

KING OF KINGS & **Lord of Lords** - the **Creator** & **Giver of Life**

How in the world are **people** so **easily drawn** into
man-made ideas of **“increased spirituality”**

When **instead** - we can **place our lives** → → →

IN the One - Who Created it all

IN the One Who **holds it all** together

IN the One Who **we can be** (*unbelievably*)

Joint-Heirs WITH - to **all** that **belongs to Him**

To seek any other source for our **Spiritual Life**

can only come from **NOT knowing WHO Jesus** Christ **Truly IS**

So – **we've seen** clearly **WHO** Jesus is –

over all of **Creation** – in the **heavens** - & on **earth**

But **what does that mean to us?**

where does that **put us?**

Colossians 1:18 (NLT)

18 Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.

Are you **SENSING** – **there's**

a **Pretty NARROW THEME** - in **these Vs's??**

Jesus Christ is the **HEAD of the Church**

Which is His **BODY** - - **That's US !!**

& then . . . **Col 1:18** says - ***He is the beginning***

MEANING, He is the Beginning of the church !!

This word "**Beginning**" means both;

"Originating Source" - & - **"First in Order"**

Jesus Christ is

the **ORIGINATING SOURCE** of the **church**

it was **His Plan** & **His Power**

that **gave birth** to the **church**

THEN – v.18 says - Jesus Christ is

supreme over all who rise from the dead

Which IS a ref to the Church !!

& then Finally – V.18 says

So he is first in everything

NKJ says here

. . . that in all things He may have the preeminence.

First in Everything - - SUPREME PREEMINENCE

Over ALL of **Creation**

Over ALL of **His Church**

Jesus Christ is **Preeminent** in **ALL THINGS**

AND - ALL the **fullness of God** - **LIVES in Him**

cont'g - Colossians 1:19 (NLT)

19 For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ,

IN Jesus Christ **all the fullness of God** – **LIVES**

All of the All - that God is – **LIVES** in Jesus Christ

The emphasis of the word translated - "LIVES" – is Permanence

ALL the fullness of God "LIVES" Permanently in Christ;

It was in Him BEFORE He came to Earth

It was in Him WHILE He was on Earth

It will continue in Him for ALL ETERNITY !

Jesus Christ possesses in Himself

the perfect & complete nature of God,

in all His Being & Attributes

& it is Because of the ALL – that Jesus IS

That His Sacrifice was able to reconcile us to God !

Let's re-read Colossians 1:19 & v.20 (NLT)

19 For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ,

20 and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He

made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of

Christ's blood on the cross.

WHAT a VERSE !!!

It took the ULTIMATE sacrifice

of the Supreme Preeminent Creator of all of creation

For us to be reconciled to God

& **NOT ONLY US**

But **ALL THINGS** in Heaven & On Earth

**Jesus Christ MADE Peace with God – ON our BEHALF
by means of HIS OWN blood on the cross**

**The Sacrifice of the One - Who was Supreme above all
was the ONLY sacrifice sufficient to reconcile us to God**

**Because it took His sacrifice on the cross to meet
ALL the Righteous, Holy demands of a perfectly Just God**

**& guys - thru our Faith in Him
His payment for our sins – Becomes OUR Payment**

& IN CHRIST – We are reconciled to God

**Thru Our Faith in Him – His sacrifice gives us Peace With God
Because He has paid the full penalty for our sin**

Jesus Christ is Supremely Preeminent over ALL of Creation

& thru Faith in Jesus Christ

We can have Peace with God

We can be made a Joint-Heir with Jesus for eternity

We can become a part of His body, the church

**& there are some Here - & some Watching or Listening
who have never really understood
the absolute Supreme Preeminence of Jesus Christ**

Maybe you've **never understood** – Just exactly **How**
Supremely Preeminent Jesus **Christ is** over **All Creation**

& so **maybe** you've **never put** your **full & complete faith**
in **HIM ALONE**

to make you **Right** before **God** -
& **reserve a place** in **Heaven** for You - **WITH HIM**

He is the **ONLY ONE** who can **do that** – **Because he** is the **only one**
who could **pay** the **full penalty** for your **sin**

& to **begin** to **Grasp** – How **Supremely Preeminent** Jesus is
over **ALL** of **creation**

& then to **realize** how **deeply** & **unconditional** his **love** for you is,
that **he** would **take your place**

That **he would go FROM** **Supremely Preeminent**
to **dying** on the **cross** to **pay** the **full penalty** for **YOUR sin**

When we **begin** to **put** those **two things together** –
How SUPREME He IS - & **How LOW** he **came** – to **Save You**

We are left – IN AWE

& **ALL** we can say is – **“I EXALT YOU”**
I EXALT You LORD

& If you've **never done that**
I want to give you an opportunity to do that now

Let's Pray