

THE DEEPER LIFE – The Preeminence of Christ
Colossians 1: 15-18

Preeminence – *proteuo* - dominant, extremely distinguished, superior to all.

“Pride is self, contending with God for preeminence.” Stephen Charnock

(John 16:31-33) Jesus answered them, "Do you now believe? Indeed the hour is coming, yes, has now come, that you will be scattered, each to his own, and will leave Me alone. And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Four characteristics of Christ' preeminence.

1) He is the image of God. (Read: v.15a).

Phillip – *“Lord show us the Father (God) and it is sufficient for us.”*

sufficient -arkeo: satisfied, content.

(John 14:9-11) Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

2) He is the firstborn over all creation. (v.15b-17) firstborn - Christ preceded the whole creation, and He is sovereign over all creation.

Paul means to show Christ' deity - (John 1:1-3) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

(Isaiah 54:16) "Behold, I have created the blacksmith Who blows the coals in the fire, Who brings forth an instrument for his work; And I have created the spoiler to destroy.

Thrones: judges, tribunals.

Dominions: rulers, lordship.

Principalities: angels or demons.

Powers: power of choice, having authority over mankind.

(Romans 8:31) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

3) In Christ all things consist. (v.17)

***"The reason nothing is now being created is because Christ created all things in the past. The reason why nothing is now being annihilated is because all things are now being sustained by Him. If it were not so, the "binding energy" of the atom, which holds its structure together, would collapse, and the whole universe would disintegrate into chaos."* (Institute for Creation Research)**

That "binding energy," is Christ!

(Isaiah 40:25-26) "To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.

4) Christ is the head of His church. (v.18)

Head – *kephale* – preeminent, supreme, cornerstone.

(John 15:5b) "...for without Me you can do nothing."

CONCLUSION: "So what do we have to fear?"