

Colossians 1:16-29

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, **in heaven and on earth**, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

- Image – εἰκών – eikōn –i-kone'
 an image, figure, likeness
 an image of the things (the heavenly things)
 image, likeness, portrait
 - Matthew 22:20 – And Jesus said to them, “Whose **likeness** and inscription is **this?**”
 - Objection to Jesus being God –



- The Caesar coin was not Caesar = Jesus is not God
- Counterpoint –
 - Jesus, being the exact image of the unseen God, does what only God does: creating all things and owning all things.
 - The coin/ image was not alive; Christ is alive, so the analogy falls apart
 - The Bible strictly prohibits the worship of Images



- Yet, Christ, the living image of God is worshipped
[Hebrews 1:6](#) -⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."
- Context is important – Christ is the creator of all things, with the authority and power of God
- God the Father has a Son Who exactly represents Him
 - [John 8:29](#) – ²⁹ And he who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I **always** do the things that are pleasing to him."
 - No regular human can say that!
 - He makes God known to us!
- The Image is the focal point of worship (e.g., False images)
 - [Daniel 3](#) – They were supposed to bow to the Image that represented Nebuchadnezzar.



- The image represented the king and the power he embodied.
- Like a coin with nothing backing it is like a false god.



¹⁸ And **he is the head** of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

- God's image is not created – ¹⁸ And **he is the head** of the body, the church
 - Not the pastor, not a bishop, not a group of men in Rome, –Jesus
 - He is the creator and preeminent over everything!

- Romans 8:29 – For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be **conformed to the image of his Son**, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.
 - **Conformed** – σύμμορφος; symmorphos; soom-mor-fos' – having the same form as another, similar, **conformed to**
 - **Image** – εἰκών – eikōn –i-kone'

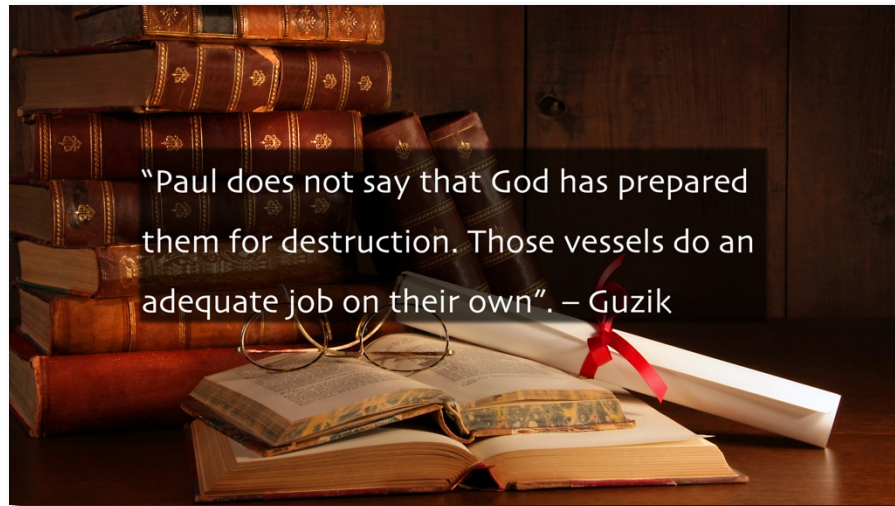
¹⁹ For in him all the **fullness** of God was pleased to dwell,

- Notice- God “in Him”
 - God was “in Christ reconciling the world to Himself” 1 Cor 5:19-21
 - In this One, by Whom the universe was created is The Father & Holy Spirit
 - In this One, by Whom the universe was created is you, by faith!
 - In fact, we are the Image of Christ
 - 1 Corinthians 15:49 – Just as we have borne the **image** of the man of dust, we shall also bear the **image** of the man of heaven.

²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

- **Reconcile** – "to restore to union and friendship after estrangement or variance," ¹
- Not all are saved, yet God made provision for all to be saved.
 - Everyone has a fair opportunity to be saved.
 - God does not predestinate anyone to Hell
 - Romans 9:22^{GNT} – ²² And the same is true of what God has done. He wanted to show his anger and to make his power known. But he was very patient in enduring those who were the objects of his anger, who were **doomed** to destruction.

¹ <https://www.etymonline.com/search?q=reconcile>



- "Paul does not say that God has prepared them for destruction. Those vessels do an adequate job on their own". – Guzik
 - The unforgivable sin is rejecting the paid-for passport to Heaven and calling the Holy Spirit a liar.
 - God is not going to override a man's choice to reject Him.
 - God does not send anyone to hell; man makes his own way there in spite of God's efforts.
- "All Things" means that provision has been made for all to be saved, or all that will be reconciled.
 - He took the sin of the world; however, there is one sin that will not be forgiven, which is the rejection of His provision. This is unpardonable.
 - This makes faith in Christ the determiner, rather than good deeds or works.
 - Because no deed can erase the disqualifier of sin, and all have sinned.

- making peace by the blood – [Genesis 2:17](#) – *17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it **you shall surely die**.*"

- From this point on, there was hostility/ alienation between God & man.

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and **above reproach** before him,

- You who were once alienated – Once far off, now brought near
 - [Ephesians 2:12-13](#) – ²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, **alienated** from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants

of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been **brought near** by the blood of Christ.

- ἀπαλλοτριόω; apallotriōō; ap-al-lot-ree-o'-o
 - Separated/ transferred to/ for another
- God the Judge has justified us, and God our loving Father has reconciled us.

²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

- if indeed you continue in the faith – The person who said a prayer 20 years prior but presently denies the truth of Christ should be very concerned!
 - There doesn't seem to be fruit unto repentance, some kind of change toward God.
 - The one who is truly saved (In Christ) should not want to jump out of His hands.
 - This is a major point of contention among believers: Can you lose your salvation?
 - A sin or mistake is one thing; it is a totally different thing to proclaim (With words or actions) that Christ is not Lord, and it's all a lie.
 - God paid a very high price.
 - What is the most expensive thing ever? – 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 –¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body
 - He is not just waiting to burn your adoption papers, your passport to Heaven.
 - Allow Him to work in you and make you His poetry!
- We are saved, being saved, and will be saved. We are exhorted/encouraged to persevere, steadfast till the end.

Paul's Ministry to the Church

²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known.

- “The term ‘**afflictions of Christ**’ is never associated with the redemptive suffering of Jesus upon the cross. It speaks, rather, of those ministerial sufferings which Paul bears because he represents Jesus Christ.” (Lane)²
- to make the word of God fully known, – I finally ate at Ruth’s Chris restaurant and had a ribeye steak. It was life-changing for me!
 - The meal was the best ribeye I’ve ever had! I have wanted to go there since 93!
 - Somehow, I never made it!
 - At times, I had money and could have gone, but I never made it. However, there were also times when I was broke and wanted to go, but I couldn’t even dream about it.
- Dishing out the Word of God –I told my wife that I feel like a chef working in the greatest kitchen in the world, with the best ingredients and food to prepare a meal.
 - **“Oh, help me, Holy Ghost!” not to mess the meal up!**

²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God

chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery,

which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

- the mystery hidden for ages – The mystery is not mysterious; it was just hidden in times past and now revealed!
- The riches of this mystery is how God has now made the Jew and Gentile one people of God See [Eph 3:6](#)
 - but now revealed to his saints.
- among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery – This was foreign to the Jewish mind of Paul’s day and even today.
- Christ in you, the hope of glory – The Hope of His return, of our glorification is a revealed mystery!



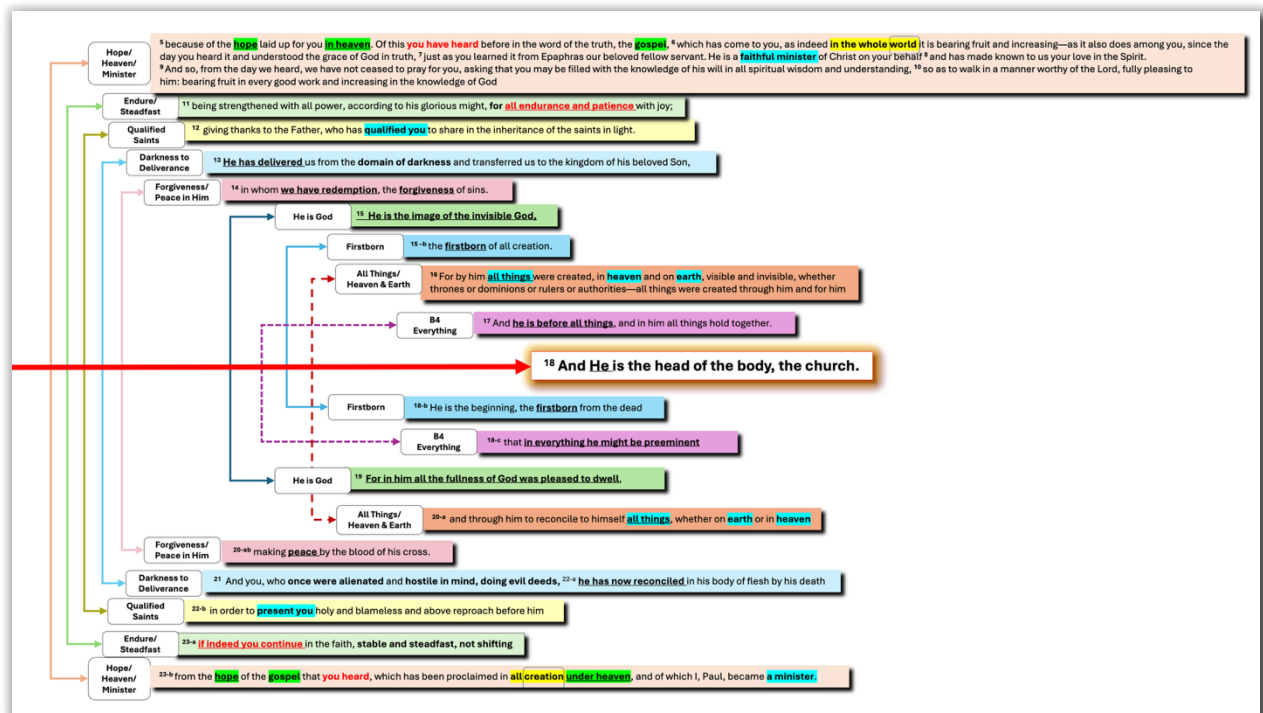
- The Israelites in the OT knew what it was like to have God dwell in their camp.
- You know what it is like to have God dwell in You!!!! What a privilege you have!

² Lane, W.L. "Daily Devotional Bible Commentary: Romans-Revelation" Volume 4 (Philadelphia: A.J. Holman, 1977)

- What a responsibility you have! If Christ is in you!
- Hope – hope, expectation
 - We don't hope for salvation; we hope "In Him." We eagerly await His return and all that comes with it!
 - Much like an award ceremony where we have won the event and then wait and hope for the award!
 - It is a certainty!

²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

- Him we proclaim – Not a system, or Church, or special teaching, but HIM!
- warning everyone –
 - νουθετέω; nouthetéō; noo-thet-eh'-o: to admonish, **warn, exhort**
 - Acts 20:31 – **To the Ephesian and Asian leaders** – ³¹ Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears
 - **To leaders in Thessalonica** – 1 Thessalonians 5:12 It is also the job of church leaders.
 - Colossians 3:16 **to the church at Colossae**
 - Romans 15:14 – To the church in Rome.
 - all his energy that he powerfully works within me.
- present everyone mature in Christ – He is working on us, bringing us to maturity in Him.
- Struggling – Striving, combating, strenuously contend
 - ἀγωνίζομαι; Agōnízomai; ag-o-nid'-zom-ahee; from (G73)
- all his energy that he powerfully works within me.



The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.