

Sermon Guide and Discussion Questions

The Preeminence of Christ (Colossians 1:15-20)

Sermon Outline

Introduction - Prominence vs. Preeminence

1. Preeminent in Creation
2. Preeminent in Redemption
3. Preeminent in Your Life

Scripture References

- *John 20:28, "And Thomas answered and said to Him, 'My Lord and my God!'"*
- *Hebrews 1:3, "Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."*
- *Mark 4:41, "And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, 'Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!'"*
- *John 1:3, "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."*
- *Ephesians 1:21, "Far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come."*
- *Romans 11:36, "For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen."*
- *Colossians 2:9, "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."*
- *Philippians 1:8, "Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ."*

Reflection Questions

- How does this passage reshape your understanding of Jesus Christ?
- Words like "thrones," "dominions," "principalities," and "powers" are often used to indicate angelic beings, even Satan and the demons. What comfort is it for you to know that your Savior is the one who created these beings and rules them?
- Can anyone else besides Christ claim to be "Head" of the church? (c.f. verse 18)
- What is the difference between Christ being *prominent* in your life, and Christ being *preeminent* in your life?
- What good things (not sins) in your life are currently trying to take the place of preeminence over Christ?
- What does Paul mean by "in Him all the fullness should dwell?" Fullness of what? (compare Colossians 2:9)
- If someone said, "Early Christians didn't believe Jesus was God, that's a man-made idea that came about much later." How would you respond from this text?
- Why must Jesus Christ be both God and man for His blood to achieve our peace and reconciliation with God? (compare with Hebrews 9:11-15)