

# Who is Jesus?

Faith is believing what God said because he said it. Theologically, it is a conviction that trusts in what God has said and operates on character and will. It is not just believing something and stopping there—it involves action. It involves a decision to surrender everything into the hands of Christ. Salvation is by the very promise of God. So who is the One in whom we're staking our soul's survival? Colossians 1:15-20 provides us with the answer, in fact 15 answers of who Jesus is. In him, is the greatest person and the greatest power and the greatest wisdom and the greatest love that exists.

## I. Colossians 1:15 - Jesus and God

- A. He is the **image** of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
  - 1. God is invisible. He cannot be seen. God became visible through Jesus.
  - 2. Hebrews 1:3 - *The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact expression of his nature,*
    - a) Image or exact expression means exact reproduction. A precise copy.
- B. He is the **firstborn** over all creation. A reference to position — not time.
  - 1. Jesus was never created. He is the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Revelation 1:4.
  - 2. "Firstborn" refers to rank, right of authority, to primacy. He is the Father's heir.
  - 3. Revelation 5 is John's vision of Him receiving his inheritance.
    - a) Revelation 5:5 "*Look, the Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered so that he is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.*"

## II. Colossians 1:16a, 17 - Jesus and all of Creation

- A. For **everything** was created by him, in heaven and on earth, ... all things have been created through him and for him. This is the why of his primacy over all creation.
- B. 1:17a - He is **before** all things... before there was anything — he was there.
  - 1. He is the First and the Last, and the Living One. I was dead, but look—I am alive forever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and Hades, Revelation 1:17b-18.
- C. 1:17b - By him all things **hold together**.

## III. Colossians 1:16b - Jesus and the Unseen World

- A. For everything was created by him, ... the visible and the **invisible**, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities...
  - 1. "Invisible" - Thrones, dominions, rulers, authorities. He is over them — not one of them.
  - 2. 1 Peter 3:22 - *who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.*
  - 3. Ephesians 1:22a - everything is everything **under** his feet.

## IV. Colossians 1:18 - Jesus and His Church

- A. He is the **Head** of the Body, which is the church. We are inseparably tied together.
- B. He is the **beginning** of the church. He is its source and the highest in rank.
- C. He is the **firstborn from the dead**. He died. He resurrected. He is now exalted.
- D. He has **firstplace** in everything.

## V. Colossians 1:19-20 - Jesus and Everything Else

- A. For God was pleased to have all his **fullness** dwell in him, and through him to reconcile everything to himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.
- B. He has all wisdom and knowledge. He has no rivals. See Colossians 2:9-10.

## VI. As We Close...

- A. Who Jesus is is objectively true. It is not an opinion or an idea.
- B. Your salvation in Him is solid and secure. Have you put your trust in Him?
- C. Colossians 3:3-4: *For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*