

Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus is Lord of All

WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

Main Idea of the Sermon: Turn to Jesus, allow Him to be your Lord, bowing all that you are before all that He is, and He will transform you. He will make you worthy and free you to be who you were created to be – a precious child made in His image.

Melodic Line of the Book: “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving” (Col. 2:6-7).

STRUCTURE/OUTLINE OF THE SERMON

- I. Introduction
- II. Jesus is Lord of All
 - A. He is Lord of All that He has made (vv. 15-17).
 - 1. He is the image of the invisible God (v. 15a).
 - 2. He is the firstborn of all creation (v. 15b).
 - 3. All things were created by Him, through Him, and for Him (v. 16).
 - 4. He is before all things and in Him all things hold together (v. 17).
 - B. He is Lord of All that He is making (vv. 18-20).
 - 1. He is the head of the body, the church (v. 18a).
 - 2. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead (v.18b).
 - 3. All the fullness of God dwells in Him (v. 19).
 - 4. He is reconciling all things to Himself, making peace by the cross (v. 20).
- III. Our Response to Jesus?
 - A. Repent before Him.
 - B. Give thanks to Him.
 - C. Allow Him to be our Lord.
 - D. Become like Him.
 - E. Worship Him.

GOSPEL CENTRALITY

Jesus is creator, sustainer, and the crucified and risen Savior, reconciling us to himself through his death on the cross and guaranteeing our resurrection through his victory over death. Jesus was broken so that we could be whole.

KEY WORDS/THEMES

1. **Image** (*eikōn*)— that which has the same form as something else (not a crafted object), living image, used 23 times in the NT, 9 times by Paul. Jesus is the image of God and humans are created in His image, after His likeness. See also, Rom. 8:29; 2 Cor. 3:18; 4:4; Col. 3:10.
2. **Firstborn** (*prōtotokos*)— pertaining to having a special status associated with a firstborn, the figurative extension of a literal firstborn son. Of Christ, as the firstborn of a new humanity which is to be glorified, as its exalted Lord is glorified; used to describe Jesus as the one coming forth from God to found the new community of believers. In Col 1:15 the emphasis is on the priority of Jesus' rank as over and above creation. In 1:18, the reference to Jesus as the "firstborn from the dead" seems to be arguing for a chronological priority, i.e., Jesus was the first to rise from the dead. See also, Rom. 8:29; Rev. 1:5.
3. **Make peace** (*eirēnopoieō*)— Paul uses the verbal form in Col. 1:20, 'to cause a right or harmonious relationship, to make peace.' It's the only use of the verb in the NT. The broader idea of peace (*eirēnē*) includes the ideas of harmony and well-being as well as wholeness or complete health, drawing upon the Hebrew word for peace, *shalom*.

KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN

- Which of the idols of approval, power, comfort, or control has particular sway over your heart right now? What's your greatest fear or what are you most anxious about right now?
- Does giving thanks come naturally to you, or is it something that you have to work hard to cultivate in your life? What are some ways that you can cultivate a thankful heart?
- What is an area of your life that is particularly difficult to give to Jesus? What are you holding back from Him?

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

- Pray for one another – that we would turn to Jesus, allow Him to be Lord of our whole lives, and that He would transform us more and more into the image of Christ.
- Pray for those among your family, friends, and community who have not put their trust in Jesus – that they would respond to the gospel and find peace in Christ.