

Colossians 1_15_trimmed.mp3

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All right, guys.

Good morning.

Open up in your Bibles to [Colossians](#), chapter 1.

Before we get going, you'll notice that Pastor Phil, our senior pastor, is not here this morning.

My name is Pastor Raleigh.

I am the youth and young adult pastor here at Ashley Valley Calvary Chapel.

And we need to pray for our senior pastor.

He is out ministering as we speak.

His sister is not doing well.

So a lot of his family came in, down here like 3 o'clock this morning.

And as far as I understand, they're at the hospital right now.

Of course, only the Lord knows.

Our times are in his hands.

We draw our last breath when he says we draw our last breath.

But we do need to lift up our brother and our sister in prayer.

So father, just pray for the Daggett family.

I just pray for Pastor Phil.

I pray for [Josh](#).

I pray for the black family as well, Lord.

And I pray, God, that you would give the doctors wisdom.

That you would give them exactly what they need, that you would bring to their remembrance, the things that they've learned in medical schools so that they can treat Penny as well as they possibly can.

And I pray for comfort.

And I pray for peace, for Bill and [Josh](#), and the rest of the family, Lord, that they would see you in this trial, that they would see you in this tribulation, and you, the God of all comfort, would be there to comfort them.

And as you comfort them in the future, they would remember and they would look back on the time that you comforted them so that they can comfort others around them.

And father, we know that you allow these trials and these tribulations in our lives to produce character, to produce people that you actually want to spend eternity with.

And father, we are all going to draw our last breath, at some point.

And our times are in your hands.

We trust our lives and your hands, to do otherwise would be foolishness.

And so we trust Penny's life into your hands.

Whenever you want to call her home, she's yours.

You're the father, she's the clay.

And she's yours to do with what you would like to do with her.

And father, we just thank you.

We thank you that we get to have life, that we get to have breath in our lungs, that we get to serve you, and we get to do wonderful things in your name.

And as we move forward this morning, let it be exactly that.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

All right, in [Colossians](#) chapter one, last time we were here, I've taught on this twice now.

We've taught through the introduction that Paul gives to the Colossian Church.

And we have also talked about prayer quite a lot through [Colossians](#) chapter one.

We've talked a little bit about spiritual warfare, and we've also talked about the gospel with spiritual warfare.

We learned that we can have tools in our tool bag.

When it comes to spiritual warfare, we can identify problems in our lives.

We can identify the lies that the enemy is speaking over our lives.

And then we can identify the truth from God's word and apply those truths to our lives by committing those verses and that truth to memory.
 And that's how we combat the enemy.
 That's how Jesus did it in [Matthew](#) chapter four.
 And so we learned that.
 And you got to remember in [Colossians](#) chapter one, that it is speaking through Paul to the Colossian Church about worldly philosophies and the traditions of men.
 That's the point of his letter.
 He is combating these traditions of these men.
 And remember, as Christians, we should always be ready.
 Just like Charlie Campbell's website is, alwaysbeready.com.
 That's how our lives should be.
 We should always be ready knowing how to answer every single person that comes to us, asking us questions about our faith and about the hope that's in us.
 And we should do so with meekness and fear.
 And so that's what Paul is doing with the Colossian Church.
 He's reaching out in meekness.
 And he's reaching out in fear and trembling.
 And he's just saying like, guys, I'm scared for you.
 You're buying into doctrines that are not true.
 And so verse 15, we start with what it looks like to rebuke.
 And I want you guys to hang on.
 We're going to read from God's word.
 And then we're going to jump in.
 OK, it's going to be a long one.
 He is the image of the invisible God, the first born overall creation.
 We're going to stop right there.
 Father, thank you.
 Help me articulate what it is that you'd have me say this morning.
 Help our ears to be open to your words.
 Help our hearts to be open.
 Lord, if there's anybody in here who has a heart of stone, turn that heart of stone into a heart of flesh so that they could see you for who you truly are.
 And Lord, we're inundated with a lot of information in this world about who you are.
 And deception is on the rise, Lord.
 We live in the days of deception.
 And there are a lot of people who have an idea.
 And they believe it sincerely about who you are.
 They may say that you're a good teacher.
 They may say that you are the Son of God.
 They may say that you are a God.
 But Lord, we know the truth.
 And we want to live by the truth.
 Your word says to test all things and hold fast to what is good.
 So help us to do that, Father, this morning.
 And help us to always be ready to answer everybody who comes against your word.
 And we say these things in the name of Jesus.
 Amen.
 All right.
[Colossians](#) chapter 1, verse 15, is our texts that we're going to be in today.
 There's a lot of information.
 Some of you came this morning wanting a 30 minute pep talk and get a boot out the door so that you can live your life.
 And do your week well.
 Well, you're going to be severely bored with this teaching.

OK.

And so I'm just going to warn you up front.

[Colossians](#) chapter 3, verse 16, it says this.

So later in the same book, Paul says in [Colossians](#) 3, 16, "Let the word of Christ dwell, and you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another.

" That's what we're doing this morning.

And [Psalms](#) and hymns and spiritual songs.

That's what we did during Worship.

Singing with grace and your hearts to the Lord.

And if you jump over to chapter 4, verse 5, it says, "Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.

Use your time wisely.

Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how to answer each one.

" OK.

We're going to jump in to [Colossians](#) chapter 1, verse 15.

Go back to verse 15.

He is the image of the invisible God, the first born overall creation.

This is a proof text that a lot of false religions are going to use.

And we're going to show today what the truth of the matter is from [Colossians](#) chapter 1, verse 15.

This is an introduction by Paul to the problems that were presented to them in the Colossian church.

He was battling against a thing called gnosticism.

And we still deal with a lot of the same issues.

People have made their own traditions.

They make their own ideas of about who Christ is.

And they make up their own philosophies about the way that the world works.

And Paul is coming in combating against them.

And he doesn't deal with every minute detail.

In fact, he doesn't even really give us what they believe.

He gives us rebuttals to things that they were already taking in.

And so what we can do as a church is we can take these principles and we can apply them to our lives too and the deception that is coming against us.

It's cool because Paul didn't write this to us.

He wrote it to the [Colossians](#).

But it was written for us.

It still applies to our lives.

And so first word, he, who is the subject of this letter?

We have to identify that right off of the giggle.

I heard a lot of whispers out there.

Come on, give me something.

That's right.

Just like a kindergartener, if anybody asks you about a Bible question and they ask you, who's this about?

It's Jesus, right?

And most of the time, it's pretty funny because we were at Camp Whispering Hope a long time ago.

And it's for handicapped people who are special needs and stuff.

And there was this one guy I was teaching through.

I can't even remember what I was teaching through.

But it was literally every question that I asked him.

He was like, Jesus.

And I'm like, how does that work for every question that I'm asking?

It's like, it wasn't even about Jesus most of the time.

But it's like, ultimately, when you get to the root of it, yeah, I guess it is kind of Jesus.

You're not wrong.

And so this is about Jesus.

And we have to have Christ write.

Everything downstream of that, if we have Christ wrong, everything that we believe in is wrong.

If we have Christianity without Christ, we have Eannity.
 And so we have to have Christ in Christianity.
 We have to have it correct.
 We don't merely get to call ourselves Christian.
 We have to actually believe something about Christ.
 Faith isn't in and of itself awesome.
 It's the object of your faith that matters.
 And so he is the image.
 This is the Greek word icon.
 It means likeness or representation.
 And this Greek word is used about 23 times in the New Testament.
 And you could replace it in almost every circumstance with the word representation.
 So he, Christ, is the representation.
 And if you remember back to [Genesis](#), we are also made in the image of God.
 So I want to ask you a question.
 How are we different?
 Why is it saying that Jesus is the image?
 When we are also the image, what's the difference there?
 Because otherwise, it would just say that we're all made in the image.
 He is made in the image.
 But yeah, we're all made in the image, right?
 So there's something different here.
 Yes?
 Well, I want to point out to you, the humanity definitely is made in the image of God, [Genesis](#) chapter 1, first 27.
 But at the fall of man in [Genesis](#) chapter 3, sin marred that image.
 And the image is certainly retained, but it's tarnished.
 And Jesus, he then is the unmarred in the perfect representation of God.
 And he is the image, the perfect representation of the invisible God, meaning that he cannot be seen by human eyes.
 He is concealed.
 And some people are going to say that invisible here doesn't actually mean that he's without substance or physical attributes.
 And this is going to be coming from a tradition that started in the 1800s known as the Latter-day Saints.
 Not all of them believe this, but they would say that God has a body of flesh and bones.
 Well, as we see here, the God is an invisible God.
 And I would make the argumentation that he is without physical substance or physical attributes.
 And I would not just solely base that on [Colossians](#) chapter 1, verse 15, that he is an invisible God.
 I would also base that on [John](#) chapter 4, verse 24, which says God is spirit.
 And those who worship him must worship and spirit and truth.
 Now, when we think about that word spirit, you could also let, well, maybe somebody can make the argumentation, well, spirit doesn't necessarily mean that it's without physical attributes or physical connotation, right?
 Physical substance.
 Well, let me read to you what Jesus says about this.
 He says in [Luke](#) chapter 24, verse 39, "Behold my hands and my feet that it is, "I myself handle me and see for a spirit does not have flesh "and bones as you see I have."
 " [Luke](#) chapter 24, verse 39.
 And so God is spirit.
 And he is the image, the perfect representation of this invisible God, the first born.
 The Greek word there is prototacos.
 And yes, I am pronouncing that correctly.
 I looked it up, okay?
 Prototacos.
 And it can mean two different things.

It can mean first born or it can mean preeminent.

A lot of times, I don't wanna make you think that it is always used in the form of preeminent, which we'll get to.

A lot of times, it's just talking plainly.

In chronological fashion and literal fashion about being a first born child, okay?

And we can see that.

In [Luke](#) chapter 2, verse 7, it says, "And she brought forth her first born son "and wrapped him in swaddling clothes "and laid him in a manger "because there was no room for them in the end.

" Now, one Greek scholar that I was reading on this word for prototacos, he says, "Here the word carries none of the theological load "which it bears elsewhere when used of Christ.

" There in [Luke](#) chapter 2, verse 7.

And so this Greek scholar, he recognizes that there's two different versions that you could use this word in.

One of them is in chronological fashion, saying, "Yes, he's merely the first born of the family, right?

" And so a lot of people are gonna say about [Colossians](#) chapter 1, verse 15, that that's what this is talking about.

Jesus is the first born in chronological order among many that he alone is not the son of God.

That you and I are brothers and sisters.

Or you're gonna have another one that says that he's the first born of all creation in chronological order, meaning that he is the first one to be created.

We're gonna refute both of those.

This same Greek scholar, he says this, "Jesus cannot be both creator and creature.

" In verse 16, jump down real quick.

We're not getting into that today, but it says, "For by him," who's him?

Jesus, all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through him and for him.

You cannot be both creator and creature.

The second way that this word can be used is in a fashion of supremacy or preeminence.

And we actually get an example of this in the Old Testament.

Most of you are familiar with the account of David, yes?

I wanna ask you, is David the oldest?

Ew, where does he lie in that family tree?

Yes, he is the youngest.

Well, let's look at what God calls him in [Psalm](#) 89.

He shall cry to me, "You are my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation, and I will make him my firstborn.

" The highest of the kings of the earth.

[Psalm](#) 89, verse 26 and 27.

Now the ironic thing is that David, even though all of us know that he is not the firstborn, is called the firstborn.

So what is [Psalm](#) 89, verse 26 and 27, speaking about?

It's speaking about his status, his supremacy in the family line.

Even though he's the youngest, he's the firstborn.

He's going to be treated as the supreme, okay?

And he is the supreme, going back to [Colossians](#) chapter 1, verse 15, "Over all creation.

" So the word firstborn, it is speaking about Jesus as supremacy over creation.

Not that Jesus was the first to be created because Jesus cannot be both creator and creature.

He is dominant over creation.

We are affirmed again by that thinking in the next verse.

Now what I want to do, because this is such a heavy verse, as I actually want to go, and I want to take a deep dive.

Now I gave you the context of the verse, I gave you the meaning of the verse, you now understand that verse that Jesus is the firstborn, meaning he's supreme over all creation.

And we can see that from verse 16.

But I can see that maybe we don't have a full understanding of who Jesus is.

And there's no way that I could do a study on Christ in the limited time that we have here, but I know that we need to be ready.

When you get a knock on that door, and you see a couple ladies standing out there, or you see a couple young guys with a white shirt and a tie and a name tag, I already know what a lot of you guys do. Shut the blind.

Don't let them know we're home, turn off the TV, turn it way down.

I already know that a lot of you guys are running.

Or if you do open the door, it's like, I don't want to hear about your mumbo jumbo, boom, right?

I already know how a lot of us act, and it does not be fitting of Christians.

We should always season our speech with grace.

We should be inviting these conversations.

If you're doing this, what this tells me is that you're scared of these conversations.

The number one fear in America is public speaking.

The number two fear is having a conversation with a stranger.

Do you fit in any of those camps?

Because I definitely do.

Ironically, I don't really like public speaking all that much.

And I really don't like having conversations with strangers.

I get weird about it.

I don't know.

You guys have a lot of practice in this.

This is a skill that you can learn for encouragement to you.

Because I haven't lived my life in a fashion where I've been a social blood or flight.

I have to work at these things.

And we need to be people who are willing to step out of our comfort zones.

Because we are ambassadors for the Lord Jesus.

And it's not just when people ask us, but it's especially when people ask us.

And especially when they come and knock on our door.

Talk about a divine appointment.

Invite that in.

Have a conversation with them.

The truth is on your side, guys.

You don't have to be worried about anything.

And if you come to this conversation with a humble and contrite spirit and you talk to them and you don't do it in a contentious manner and you ask a lot of questions, then maybe, just maybe, you will plant a little seed in their life.

I like the way that one author puts it.

When he has conversations with people, not always is his ultimate goal when people over to Christ.

A lot of times it's to put a pebble in their shoe.

And you guys have walked with a pebble in your shoe before.

It's very uncomfortable, isn't it?

So you're putting this metaphorical pebble in their shoe.

And as they walk about their life, it's very uncomfortable.

You've given them something that they have to deal with.

They got to take the shoe off and they got to deal with it.

There's other traditions that when they have doubts arise in their faith, they have a metaphorical bookshelf, okay?

And they put that doubt on the shelf.

Our [job](#), in a lot of cases, is to put a metaphorical doubt in that faith system.

And as that bookshelf gets heavier and heavier and heavier, it eventually breaks.

And I pray to the Lord that there will be somebody there that can help pick up the pieces, put it back together, and say, "Okay, here is a true outlook on life.

Here is a true worldview.

" And I want to give you just a couple examples of how we can do this.

This is not by any means an exhaustive way that we can deal with the deity of Christ.

But what I want you to do for you, those of you who are notetakers, I don't want you to flip in your Bibles to every single verse that I'm going to go to.

What I want you to do is merely write down the verse reference.

And this works especially well with people of different faiths that do not believe that Jesus is God in the flesh.

And I want you to load your Bibles.

And what I mean by that is I want you to remember one verse, [Isaiah](#) 48 verse 12.

I want you to load your Bible with [Isaiah](#) 48 verse 12.

And the rest of the buckshot is loaded with that one.

And I want you to load your Bible like a double barrelled shotgun.

And yes, this is a metaphorical shotgun.

There are many names that are given to the God of the universe.

Among those names, and not only these names, are the first and the last God.

And we're going to start in [Isaiah](#) 48 verse 12.

And I'm going to take you through one more name.

So this is the title of this one who is the first and the last.

Who is the first and the last according to [Isaiah](#) 48 verse 12?

Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel my called.

I am He.

I am the first.

I am also the last.

Who is speaking there?

Okay.

First two, [Isaiah](#) 44 verse 6.

Thus says the Lord.

All caps.

Who is it?

Yahweh.

Yahova.

The King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts.

I am the first and I am the last.

Besides me, there is no God.

How many gods are there?

There is one.

So this is what you're going to start doing.

As you have this loaded, the only verse you have to remember is [Isaiah](#) 48 verse 12.

And in your Bible, you're going to write [Isaiah](#) 44 verse 6 right next to [Isaiah](#) 48 verse 12.

And so when you go to [Isaiah](#) 48 verse 12, you will know automatically what verse you need to go to next.

And you're going to start asking questions.

And you're going to ask questions when people come and they say, hey, have you ever heard of the Lord Jesus Christ?

And you're going to say, well, who is it?

What do you mean by Jesus?

I've used this a lot, guys.

This isn't just like my made up fairy tale thing, right?

When people come to me, you'll notice any time that I don't know if they're in the faith or out of the faith.

If they talk about Jesus, I'm like, who is Jesus?

I just did it like three days ago.

And almost unanimously, they'll say, well, he's the son of God.

What does that mean?

That's my next question.

What does that mean?

At this point, about 99.

9% of the time, they then begin to fumble over the words.

Because they have no idea what that actually means.

Their eyes get real big, and their mouth gets real small, and they don't know how to answer.
 And so I'll say, okay, well, do you care if I walk you through some stuff?
 And what it means to be the son of God?
 And they're usually like, yes, absolutely.
 So I will take them in many times to [Isaiah](#) chapter 40, verse 12, and I will start this chain of events.
 I have my Bible loaded up, and I even have it on my esort.
 And I start to take them through this.
 And I'll say, again, next verse, I haven't loaded [Isaiah](#) 41, verse 4.
 And I'll ask him, who does this verse talk about?
 Who is this?
 And it says in verse 41, verse 4, who has performed and done it, calling the generations from the beginning?
 I, the Lord, Yahweh, and the first.
 And with the last, I am He.
 And I'll take them to the next one.
 Right or right next to that verse, [Isaiah](#) 43, verse 10.
[Isaiah](#) 43, verse 10 says, "You are my witnesses," says the Lord, "and my servant, whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me, and understand that I am He.
 Before me, there was no God.
 Nor shall there be after me.
 " How many gods are there?
 Okay.
 And I'll be asking these questions, by the way, as I'm taking them through these things.
 So we all agree that there's one God, that there's one that's also called the first in the last.
 I just demonstrated that.
 Yes, everybody agrees on that.
 And I'll even ask him that question.
 You and I agree.
 And agreements on this.
 Yes, there's one God.
 And he's called the first in the last.
 Yes, absolutely.
 Okay.
 Let's go to [Revelation](#).
[Revelation](#) chapter 1, verse 8.
[Revelation](#) chapter 1, verse 8.
 Who is speaking here?
 For those of you who have read letter Bibles.
 And I'll ask him that before I even read it.
 "I am the Alpha and the Omega.
 " The beginning and the end, says the Lord, "Who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.
 " Is Jesus lying?
 I don't think so either.
 Let's move back to God Almighty.
[Revelation](#) 4, 8.
 "The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes, around and within, and they do not rest day or night.
 Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.
 " Let's turn to [Revelation](#) 1, 11 now.
[Revelation](#) 1, 11 says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega.
 " Who's speaking?
 What does he say after that?
 The first and the last.
 Who was that title attributed to in the Old Testament?
 Okay.

How many gods are there?

Okay.

What you see, write it in a book, and send it to the seven churches that are in Asia, an Ephesus and Sumerna and so on.

How many Alphas and Omega are there in the Bible?

There's one.

Yeah.

Jesus says this again in [Revelation](#) 22, verse 13.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

" So there's no question, absolutely zero question, that this title, the first and the last, is attributed to Yahweh in the Old Testament, and there is only one.

There was no God formed before, nor shall there be after.

There's one God.

There's one first and last.

Yet we see in [Revelation](#) that Jesus is called the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, and the first and the last.

And we can put it to rest with this.

[Revelation](#) 1, verse 17 and 18.

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead, but he laid his right hand on me saying, "Do you not be afraid?

I am the first and the last.

" I am he who lives and was dead and behold, I am alive evermore.

Who do you know that died was buried and rose again? Jesus.

So if there was any problem with like the identity of this person who's calling themselves, the first and the last, I think this kind of puts it to rest at this point, right?

Amen.

And I have the keys of Hades and death.

Jesus is the first and the last.

He was rose from the dead.

And finally, our 10th verse, [Revelation](#) 2, verse 8.

And to the angel of the church in Sumerna, write these things, says the first and the last, who was dead and came to life.

It's pretty cool.

So what happens is you have just shot your first shot of buckshot.

And to the person.

And you've done so with meekness and fear.

Usually I like to ask before I even get into this.

Have you ever considered the names of Yahweh in the Old Testament?

And a lot of times it's like, "No, maybe yes, but they don't know anything about it.

" And it's like, "Okay, let me walk you through some of these things, right?

" And so you start to talk with them and you preload this.

It's almost like a trap door that they're walking into.

You're backing them into a corner because there is no way of getting around it.

How many times does God have to say something before it's true?

Once.

This is not an exhaustive list, either, guys.

I just took you through 10 verses.

And there is a ton.

There is a plethora of verses about the Godhood of Jesus.

Your next shot of buckshot is, have you ever considered actually what the name savior is and who it's attributed to?

This is the question that you ask.

"Gas get with a big smile.

" And you do so not in a malicious way or a way that you're trying to fight them and prove them absolutely wrong.

You're just trying to say, "Hey, have you ever considered this?"

"You're giving them a pebble in their shoe."

You're giving them a book to put on their shelf of doubts.

That's what you do.

I'm going to make the observation that your second shot of buckshot should be about the word savior, the title savior.

And you should already have right there next to [Revelation](#) 2.

8.

That's the last one that we just went to.

You should have the question written out in your Bible.

Who is the savior?

And then have a Bible verse written right next to it that says, [Isaiah](#) 43.

11.

We're going to go back to the Old Testament.

Why?

Because we're going to establish that Yahweh and the Old Testament is spoken of as the savior.

And it's a title attributed to Him and only to Him.

[Isaiah](#) 43.

11.

God alone is savior.

Even I am the Lord and besides me, there is no savior.

How many times does God have to say something for it to be true one time?

How many saviors are there according to [Isaiah](#) 43.

11?

There is one savior.

And who is it?

Yes.

Except for right here, you guys all recognize this, but we're walking somebody through that who is spoken of in [Isaiah](#) 43.

11.

All caps, Lord.

Yes.

Next one, [Isaiah](#) 45.

21.

Tell and bring forth your case.

Yes, let them make counsel together who has declared this from ancient times.

Who has told it from that time?

Have not I the Lord?

And there is no other God besides me.

How many gods are there?

Yeah, we established that.

A just God and a savior.

There is none besides me.

How many are there besides God?

None.

Let's turn to [Hosea](#) chapter 13 verse 4.

Yeah, I am the Lord your God ever since the land of Egypt.

And you shall know God, but you shall know, no God but me.

For there is no savior besides me.

Let's go to [1 Timothy](#) 4 verse 10.

For to this end, Paul writes, we both labor and suffer approach because we trust in the living God who is the savior of all men.

How many are there besides God?

0.

Okay.

First timid or [Titus](#) 210.

Not pilfering, but showing all good fidelity that they may adorn the doctrine of God.

How are savior in all things?

Now, this is the point that I want to transition in the conversation and say, okay, you just said that Jesus Christ is our savior.

You came and knocked on my door and said, have you ever heard of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

What do you mean by savior?

I can take this conversation just from that one sentence.

I have a lot of different directions, guys.

Usually front loaded with this.

I've already got it in my mind.

[Isaiah](#) 48, 12.

If anybody comes to me and talks to me about Jesus, [Isaiah](#) 48, 12.

And I've already got my Bible loaded.

I've got a lot of fire at any time in season and at a season.

There is no season for the human heart.

It's always loaded, right?

And so now I take them through the New Testament documents about who Jesus is and the claims about himself and the claims of other people about him.

[Titus](#) 213, just a couple of verses down from [Titus](#) 210.

We've seen that God is the Savior and there's no other Savior's besides God and there's only one.

[Titus](#) 213 says, looking for the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ.

We've seen that there's a Greek rule that's used here in [Titus](#) 213.

It's used 250 times in the New Testament without exception.

And it's a rule that says that when there is the Greek conjunction, that word and between two different nouns for one one subject.

We're talking about one thing.

And so when it says God and Savior Jesus Christ, it's talking about Jesus being God.

And it's used 250 times in the New Testament without exception.

And it would be the exception if it does not mean that Jesus is God.

And I'm going to just say that like when you have that much consistency, we'll probably just go with what the rest of them say, right?

I'm going to say that Jesus is God here, but it also calls him Savior.

And then we're going to go to [Philippians](#) chapter 3 verse 20 for our citizenship is in heaven from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

I want you to notice the definite article, the the Lord Jesus Christ.

He is the Savior.

[John](#) 442 says this, then they said to the woman, "Now we believe not because what you said for we ourselves have heard him, and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.

" And then we'll go to chapter [2 Peter](#) 1 111, chapter [2 Peter](#) 1 111.

For so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

So I've just given you 10 verses to establish the first and the last and I've given you 10 verses to establish who is the Savior.

How many firsts and lasts are there?

Who is that attributed to?

Jesus, how many Savior's are there?

How many are there besides the one?

And who is it?

Yeah, you've just walked whoever it is that's at your door into a massive dilemma.

There are times in our lives that we have disorienting dilemmas.

I just read in a book a lady, she takes students to different countries, she takes them on different tours, youth camps, you know, all these different things.

And she says, "What I'm trying to do during these times is I'm trying to introduce disorienting dilemmas into their lives.

" I think of disorienting, it's like dizzying, right?

You don't know what to do with this.

And it's a dilemma.

I'm confronted with something that I've never been confronted with and I have to come to terms with this dilemma.

You have just represented a disorienting dilemma to someone at your front door.

If they're really a truth seeker, they have to come to this and come to terms with it.

And if they say that Jesus is a God among gods, that he's the first born of many gods, I mean he's just our brother.

They have to come to terms with this.

Because guess what?

You can't apply the first and last to you.

There's only one and there is no other.

Before me, there was no God formed, nor shall there be afterwards.

And how many saviors are there?

There's one.

How many besides him?

None.

And it's attributed to Jesus.

Can you call yourself a savior?

No, you cannot.

He's not the first of many.

He is the only.

And so what are we supposed to do with this information?

Where should team you come on up?

What are we supposed to do?

We've established that there is only one God, that there is only one first and last, that there is only one savior.

If you are coming today and you have just been confronted with this for the first time, you are now in a disorienting dilemma and you have to come to terms with this.

What are you supposed to do with this information?

Well, [Romans](#) 10, 13, it says this, whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

There is one God, there is one savior, there is one first and last.

Make him your Lord, the king of your life.

It's your only reasonable response.

In [Philippians](#) chapter 2 verse 10 and 11 says this, that at the name of Jesus, the name of Jesus, every knee should bow of those in heaven, of those on earth, and of those under the earth.

And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

In [Acts](#) 4:12 it says this, "Nor is there salvation in any other.

" For there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.

And finally, [Romans](#) 10, 9, that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Let's pray.

Father, we just come humbly before you.

Thank you that you are the first and the last and besides you there is no other.

No God was formed before you, nor shall there be after you.

You're the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end, the 11th, and Father, you are the savior.

And besides you there is no other.

Your word says such.

And as such, we make the Lord Jesus our Lord.

And Father, just help us to walk in a manner worthy of the calling that you've placed on our lives.

Thank you so much for your word and for the overwhelming evidence.

Lord, when people come to us with questions about our faith, about the hope that's in us, let us have answers, Lord.
Help us to be the type of people who are searching the scriptures daily to discern what is truth, help us to test all things and hold fast what is good and true.
And then when people come to us and they ask us, so who are you?
We can say, well, I'm a child of the most high God.
And I have salvation in the name of Jesus.
And there's no other name under heaven by which I must be saved.
My identity rides and resides in Him and Him alone.
And let us answer people with meekness, let us answer them with fear.
Let us answer them with gentleness and respect.
Help us to plant seeds, help us to water.
But Lord, at the end of the day, you're the one that gives the increase.
And we trust you and we trust you alone.
And as we worship, Lord, help us to lift you on high because you're worthy.
The angels cried out, holy, holy, holy, to the Lord God Almighty.
And we do the same thing this morning.
In the name of Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the King of Kings and our Savior.
Amen.
[Music]