

## OUTLINE

# Jesus is Supreme: Colossians 1:15-20

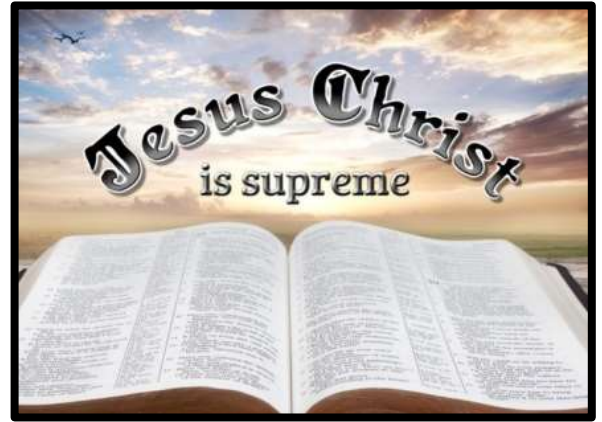
Pastor Adam Hall ☞ Dryden First Baptist Church ☞ Nov 27, 2021

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## Colossians 1:15-20 ESV

*The Pre-eminence of Christ*

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. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.



## Introduction

- one of the most foolish things I have ever heard a church leader say was, “I do not worship Jesus, I just worship God”
- there are many things that are wrong with this statement!
- most importantly, this statement contradicts the Bible, as it teaches that Jesus is God!
- many passages speak about Jesus being God
- I will just mention a few!

**John 1:1-2** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  
<sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God.

**Titus 2:13** waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

- and of course this passage (Colossians 1:15-20) teaches the divinity of Jesus or Jesus is God!
- furthermore, such an irresponsible statement made by a church leader, certainly goes against Christian teaching and the historical teachings of the church
- many Christians died because of their profession that “Jesus is Lord” or “Jesus is God”
- to be a leader of a church and say that the worship of Jesus is “no big deal” goes against the historic teaching of the church and the \_\_\_\_\_ witness that Jesus is God!
- let us say you are in a room with many people from all the \_\_\_\_\_ on the planet
- you call everyone to attention and say, “I just worship God and not Jesus”
- that statement is the least controversial announcement that you can say to a group of religious people
- most religions \_\_\_\_\_ Christianity and Atheism will not even care about it
- but if you say to this group of people from many different religions, “I worship \_\_\_\_\_, because He alone is God” then the fireworks will start!

- the atheists and all the other religions will be upset and want to debate you
  - I will try and make this simple in pizza terms
  - if you say "I like pepperoni pizza", no one will bat an eye and you are everyone's friend
  - but if you are so bold as to say, "I like \_\_\_\_\_ on my pizza", then the controversy breaks out and people look at you funny
  - just like saying "I like pineapple on pizza" creates controversy and so does claiming that Jesus is Supreme!
  - but the stakes are a lot higher with your profession of Jesus
  - if you like pineapple on pizza who really cares, there is no eternal value to such a statement
  - but if you claim, and truly believe, that Jesus is Supreme and say "I worship Jesus because He is God", such a statement has eternal consequences
- Romans 10:9** because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- Colossians was written by Paul to explain to us the importance of the Lord Jesus Christ
  - people were teaching "fake news" about the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith
  - these false teachers were teaching that following the Lord meant replacing Jesus with restricted diets and the observance of Jewish holidays
  - clearly, they had replaced Jesus Christ with something that offered no eternal hope or salvation!
- Colossians 1:15-20 is a Christian Hymn that is placed in this book
  - we do not know who wrote this hymn but we do know that this was a confession of the early church concerning the person and work of the Lord Jesus
  - we get an inside look on what the early church confessed about Jesus!
  - this early church hymn is all about the Lord Jesus and His character!
  - so this hymn is teaching very deep doctrine or deep theology
  - this hymn teaches us \_\_\_\_ important truths about Jesus but we will break this hymn into a three part sermon!

Outline:

- 1) (1:15-17) Supreme Over Creation
- 2) (1:18) Supreme Over the Church
- 3) (1:19-20) Supreme Over Salvation

**1) (1:15-17) Supreme Over Creation**

**(1:15) He is the image of the invisible God,**

- when we hear the phrase "\_\_\_\_\_ of God" we likely think of Adam and Eve and how they are made in the image of God

**Genesis 1:26** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

- BUT there are 3 ways in which \_\_\_\_\_ is much different than us sinful humans

- 1) Jesus is without sin
- 2) Jesus is God
- 3) Jesus was not made and we, as humans, have been made by God

- Jesus is described here as being the \_\_\_\_\_ or the exact representation of the Lord who is invisible  
- the book of \_\_\_\_\_ helps us understand this \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is the image of God in Hebrews 1  
**Hebrews 1:2-4** but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.<sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the \_\_\_\_\_ imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the Word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,<sup>4</sup> having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

- what Paul is getting at here in Colossians 1:15 is that "Jesus \_\_\_ God"
- if you want to \_\_\_\_\_ who God is or what God is like then all you have to do is \_\_\_\_\_ at Jesus
- you cannot know \_\_\_\_\_ without knowing \_\_\_\_\_
- here we see the reference to the \_\_\_\_\_ in Col 1:15, even though the Holy Spirit is not mentioned directly
- the \_\_\_\_\_ is how we describe who God is
- He is \_\_\_\_\_ distinct persons and yet God is one
- the Trinity is composed of the Father, the \_\_\_\_\_ and Holy Spirit
- we do not have three gods or two gods, but \_\_\_\_\_ God with three distinct \_\_\_\_\_!

### the firstborn of all creation.

- many cults take this phrase and \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus was made God at His \_\_\_\_\_ or incarnation
- they teach that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ eternal but came into existence when He was born
- but this phrase is not teaching anything like that
- Jesus being the "first \_\_\_\_\_ of all creation" means that Jesus stands alone and is \_\_\_\_\_ in all creation
- the word "first born" is a similar word to that used in John \_\_\_\_\_ and is translated "one and \_\_\_\_\_ Son"
- Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ begotten Son of God
- we know that this does not mean that Jesus came into existence at His birth because Jesus declares in John that He \_\_\_\_\_ before Abraham!

**John 8:58** Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, \_\_\_\_\_ Abraham was, I am."

- when Jesus tells the \_\_\_\_\_ that He was pre-existing the Jews picked up stones to stone Him because of this \_\_\_\_\_
- the Jews knew Jesus was claiming to be the \_\_\_\_\_ Son of God

**John 8:59** So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

### (1:16) by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--

- \_\_\_\_\_ things were created by Him – the "Him" of course refers to the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ Christ
- Jesus is the means by which all things were \_\_\_\_\_!
- the verb "were created" is passive and thus the subject of the \_\_\_\_\_ is not mentioned
- this is a divine passive, which means that God has \_\_\_\_\_ all things by Jesus Christ

- Colossians 1:16 points us \_\_\_\_\_ to Genesis 1-2

**Genesis 1:1** In the beginning, God \_\_\_\_\_ the heavens and the earth.

- God created the \_\_\_\_\_ and all its elements in \_\_\_ days through the Jesus Christ

- we have the \_\_\_\_\_ involved in creation and the \_\_\_\_\_ involved in creation!

- \_\_\_\_\_ is the Creator

- do you see what God has created by Jesus?

- heaven and earth were created by God \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus

- things that are invisible and visible were created by \_\_\_\_\_ through Jesus

- thrones, dominions, rulers and authorities were created by God through \_\_\_\_\_

- what Paul is getting at here is that everything we can see and \_\_\_\_\_ that exists that we cannot see has been created by God \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ!

**all things were created through him and for him.**

- creation has a \_\_\_\_\_ and we see this with this next phrase!

- all things were created "through" Jesus Christ and this goes \_\_\_\_\_ to "by Him, all things were created"

- but \_\_\_\_\_ things were created "for him", Jesus Christ

- all of creation has a \_\_\_\_\_ and that purpose is to give glory to the Lord Jesus Christ!

- do you have a pulse right now? That's great! \_\_\_\_\_ You were created for the Lord Jesus Christ

- you were created to \_\_\_\_\_ Him, experience Him, \_\_\_\_\_ Him and to \_\_\_\_\_ Him!

**(1:17) And he is before all things,**

- Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_, this means that He has always existed and will always exist

- if we could take a time machine one million years in the past, Jesus would be \_\_\_\_\_ with the Father and the Holy Spirit

- if we could take a time machine one million years in the future, Jesus would be existing with the Father and the Holy \_\_\_\_\_

- the book of \_\_\_\_\_ makes things simple for us by using of the Greek alphabet

- \_\_\_\_\_ records Jesus as saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega"

**Revelation 1:8** "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

**Revelation 21:6** And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

**Revelation 22:13** I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

- Alpha is the \_\_\_\_\_ letter in the Greek alphabet and Omega is the \_\_\_\_\_ letter in the Greek alphabet

- so we could say "Jesus is the A and the \_\_\_\_\_"

- this means that Jesus is the one who \_\_\_\_\_ has been and who will always be

- Jesus is the beginning and the \_\_\_\_\_!

**and in him all things hold together.**

- not only was all of creation \_\_\_\_\_ by the Lord Jesus, \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord Jesus and for the Lord Jesus, all things are held together in the Lord Jesus
- the Lord Jesus is the sustainer of all things in creation
- there is not a molecule in all of the creation that is not \_\_\_\_\_ together by the sovereignty of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Jesus said this about Himself and His work on the earth

**John 5:17** But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am \_\_\_\_\_."

- what happens after Jesus says that God is His \_\_\_\_\_ and they have been working until now?
- the Jews, again, try and \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus because He was claiming to be equal with God
- the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit sustain \_\_\_\_\_ of creation and are sovereign over all creation

## **2) (1:18) Supreme over the Church**

**(1:18) And he is the head of the body, the church.**

- this \_\_\_\_\_ helps us out with a few things!
- this verse helps us out with who is the authority of the \_\_\_\_\_
- many people think their opinions should be the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church
- many \_\_\_\_\_ think their conscience should be the authority of the church
- many people think their preferences should be the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church
  
- I heard a wise man once say, "opinions are like noses, everyone has them"
- guy delivered some wisdom with that one!
- sometimes, people's opinions are not \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ and His \_\_\_\_\_ but are based by what their parents taught them
- sometimes, people's consciences are not \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ and His Word but are based in what they think is right or \_\_\_\_\_
- sometimes, people's preferences are not based in \_\_\_\_\_ and His Word but are based in what they are comfortable with
  
- but who the authority of the \_\_\_\_\_ is made crystal here
- Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_, He is our head!
- this means that not only has Jesus given life to the \_\_\_\_\_ by means of His death but Jesus Christ is also the authority for His \_\_\_\_\_
- if you have an opinion or an \_\_\_\_\_ about church, \_\_\_\_\_ should consider passing that by the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church who is Jesus Christ
- I knew a lady who passed away years ago who was very mad because she did not like the new \_\_\_\_\_ of the foyer of the church
- she spent about 20 seconds each Sunday in that foyer but she was so \_\_\_\_\_ because it was not her favourite colour
- the colour was not black, purple with pink polka dots or hot orange, the colour was a nice green
- the colour is really irrelevant but this is a good \_\_\_\_\_ of when someone allows their opinions and preferences to override the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus and the principles of His Word!

- \_\_\_\_\_ is the head of the church so therefore the things that are important to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church ought to be of utmost importance to us!
- how you live your \_\_\_\_\_, and whether it is according to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, is infinitely \_\_\_\_\_ important than any church paint job

**He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.**

- Colossians 1:18 reiterates that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_
- Paul also writes that Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ born from the dead
- Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ and was raised to life again by the \_\_\_\_\_
- Jesus took the wrath of God for \_\_\_\_\_ humanity and their punishment when he was crucified on the \_\_\_\_\_ but death could hold Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ no longer, God raised Him by His \_\_\_\_\_!
- the \_\_\_\_\_ of this work of Christ is that He might be "preeminent"
- "preeminent" means to be supreme or to have 1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_\_
- because Jesus is eternal, died to pay the ransom for sin and was \_\_\_\_\_ to life, Jesus is Supreme!

### 3) (1:19-20) Supreme over Salvation

**(1:19) For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,**

- this verse might seem confusing to some because they might \_\_\_\_\_ that it says that Jesus is not God
- and some \_\_\_\_\_ "Jesus only had God dwelling inside of Him"
- they make Jesus out to be more of super-human \_\_\_\_\_ of God
- note what Paul \_\_\_\_\_ later on in Colossians

**Colossians 2:9** For in him the whole fullness of deity \_\_\_\_\_ bodily,

- if the "fullness of \_\_\_\_\_" dwells in Jesus then Jesus is absolutely God!
- it cannot be any clearer than that!

- this is the same language that is used by John to speak about \_\_\_\_\_ being God at the start of the gospel of John

**John 1:14** And the Word became \_\_\_\_\_ and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and \_\_\_\_\_.

- here, Paul is teaching the \_\_\_\_\_ of the incarnation
- God, an infinite being becomes \_\_\_\_\_!
- the \_\_\_\_\_ of the universe humbles Himself and takes on the nature of a \_\_\_\_\_
- Colossians 1:19 is a good Christmas \_\_\_\_\_ because it speaks to us about the peace that we can have on \_\_\_\_\_ because God became \_\_\_\_\_!

**(1:20) and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.**

- this section ends with a very clear description of how reconciliation is accomplished \_\_\_\_\_ Christ's shed blood on the \_\_\_\_\_
- Jesus is the agent of \_\_\_\_\_ between God who is holy and sinful humans

- \_\_\_\_\_ do we need reconciliation?
  - we need reconciliation because our sins have \_\_\_\_\_ us from God
  - Isaiah speaks about the horrible effects of our \_\_\_\_\_ before a holy God
- Isaiah 59:2** but your iniquities have made a separation \_\_\_\_\_ you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

- \_\_\_\_\_ speaks about the our sin, as well, in the book of Ephesians
- Ephesians 2:12** remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and \_\_\_\_\_ to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

- this is our \_\_\_\_\_ condition, we are alienated and separated from God but that is why \_\_\_\_\_ came and died!
- He brings \_\_\_\_\_ between us and God!
- have you ever heard someone speak about a terrible situation and they say that there are “irreconcilable \_\_\_\_\_”?
- that is our \_\_\_\_\_ or our situation prior to us having saving faith in Jesus Christ
- we have an “irreconcilable difference” between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ but Jesus brings peace, or reconciliation, by \_\_\_\_\_ of His death upon the Cross
- Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ fellowship between two \_\_\_\_\_ parties; us sinful humans and God by means of His shed \_\_\_\_\_ upon the Cross!

## APPLICATION

### 1) You Were Created For A Purpose

- “meaningless, meaningless everything is meaningless” this seems to be the anthem of the \_\_\_\_\_ (Ecclesiastes 1:2)
  - a popular opinion about life is “Life really has no \_\_\_\_\_. The meaning of life is to give life meaning.”
  - \_\_\_\_\_ this hymn (Colossians 1:15-20) written 2000 years ago makes crystal clear the \_\_\_\_\_ of life!
  - we are \_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord Jesus Christ
  - Jesus Christ has given us breath so that we can \_\_\_\_\_ Him, serve Him, love Him, praise Him, glorify Him, \_\_\_\_\_ Him and \_\_\_\_\_ the world His greatness!
  - I know we are not Presbyterians but the *Westminster Catechism helps us out here!*  
*Question: What is the chief end of man?*  
*Answer: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.*
  - Paul even teaches this later on in the book of Colossians
- Colossians 3:17** And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

- humans were made for a purpose -- to \_\_\_\_\_ and experience the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord Jesus Christ!

### 2) Peace From The Prince Of Peace

- the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ upon the Cross is wonderful
- Jesus brings \_\_\_\_\_ between us and God!

- we do not have to look too far into the Bible to see that our \_\_\_\_\_ alienates us from God
- we do not have to look too far into the Bible to see that our sin is deserving of \_\_\_\_\_ from God
- but this is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ, He \_\_\_\_\_ our sin, our punishment and \_\_\_\_\_ the anger of God so that we can have \_\_\_\_\_ with God

- as a Christians we ought to \_\_\_\_\_ out in worship with \_\_\_\_\_ like this one written by Bob Kauflin  
*Alas, and did my Savior bleed And did my Sovereign die?  
 Would He devote that sacred head For such a worm as I?  
 Was it for sins that I had done He groaned upon the tree?  
 Amazing pity, grace unknown And love beyond degree  
 My God, why would You shed Your blood so pure and undefiled  
 To make a sinful one like me Your chosen, precious child?*

- we have all created a serious \_\_\_\_\_ with our sin, but the Lord Jesus took \_\_\_\_\_ of it! This is a wonderful \_\_\_\_\_!
- Jesus has made peace for us by His \_\_\_\_\_ upon the Cross!
- Praise the Lord

- if you are struggling to find \_\_\_\_\_ in life and are \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ
- look to Christ and His wonderful \_\_\_\_\_ on your behalf!
- \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ and His work and be \_\_\_\_\_ and have peace with God!

### 3) Who is the Supreme Authority Over the Church?

- there has been much debate lately concerning the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ over the church
- everyone agrees that the Lord of the church \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus Christ but not everyone agrees on what the Lord commands \_\_\_\_\_ the church
- this has created some \_\_\_\_\_ in the body of Christ across Canada
- there is no sense crying over spilled milk but what we can do is make sure personally that we are \_\_\_\_\_ Christ
- we can examine our church to see if we are being \_\_\_\_\_ and guided by Jesus Christ or \_\_\_\_\_ opinion!
- we can examine our life to see if Jesus is truly our \_\_\_\_\_ and our personal boss
- let us be a people who consistently spends time in God's Word so we can \_\_\_\_\_ what is the pleasing will of the Lord for our church
- let us be a church who \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ and does not allow \_\_\_\_\_ preferences or opinions to override Christ's \_\_\_\_\_!

**Ephesians 1:22-23** And he put all things under his \_\_\_\_\_ and gave him as \_\_\_\_\_ over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

NEXT SUNDAY...  
 COLOSSIANS 1:21-23