

DISCUSSION AND APPLICATION

Paul is concerned to show the supremacy of Jesus, and the special place he has in creation, and in respect to the church. Paul uses the word 'preeminent.' Does Jesus have preeminence in your life, in your church? If he did, how might your life, or church, look different?

Paul expresses the need to "continue in the faith." What does that look like, and how well does your life measure up? Are you 'stable' and 'steadfast,' or are you 'shifting from the hope of the gospel'? What might you do to become stronger in your faith?

When you think of Jesus are you aware that he is "the image of the invisible God"? How might that effect your prayer life, and your confidence in him?

Jesus, the one who is "the image of the invisible God," by, through, and for whom all things were created, is the very same one who made "peace by the blood of his cross," and reconciled those who would put their faith in him "in his body of flesh by his death." Take time to thank God for such a wonderful and loving saviour.



A Short Study of COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

In this study from the first chapter of Colossians we learn that Jesus, the image of God, is also our saviour who died to reconcile all things to himself.

Copyright © Karl R B Jones, 2017
TBC012.01.01S

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

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.*

21 *And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,*

22 *he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,*

23 *if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.*

OBSERVATION

This is a passage about Jesus. The “He” referred to is Jesus Christ. Mark every occurrence of the words “He is.”

- What do you learn about Jesus?

Now mark the words “by him,” “through him” and “in him”.

- What do you learn about Jesus relationship with God?
- With creation?
- With the church?

Now mark the word ‘you,’ referring the Colossians Christians.

- What do you learn about their previous life?
- What has Jesus done for them?
- What was Jesus purpose in doing it?

CROSS REFERENCE AND INTERPRETATION

What do you understand by the expression “the image of the invisible God”? What particular aspects of God’s person and character are reflected in Paul’s description of Jesus here?

Mark the word ‘firstborn.’ Look up Romans 8:29 and Revelation 1:5. What does it mean that Jesus is the “beginning, the firstborn from the dead,” “the firstborn of all creation,” and “the firstborn among many brothers”?

Mark the word ‘reconcile.’ What does Jesus reconcile and how does he do it?

Mark the words “if indeed.” Paul seems to put a condition the work of Christ. What is that condition?