

# First Place in Everything

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*Col. 1:15-20*

## **INTRODUCTION**

- A. Jesus has the first place in all things.
- B. The Colossian heresy provides the background for this text.
  - 1. It was a combining of several religious beliefs.
  - 2. It involved:
    - a. Gnosticism (1:22; 2:9).
    - b. Judaism (2:16).
    - c. Asceticism (2:18).
    - d. Worship of angels (2:18).
  - 3. These things don't matter. "The substance belongs to Christ" (2:17).
- C. Christ is—

## **HE IS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD (v. 15)**

- A. "Image" literally refers to the emperor's head on a coin; it is his likeness.
  - 1. "Image" is the nearest word for "photograph" in Greek.
  - 2. Jesus is like a photograph of God.
- B. God is invisible, i.e. unknowable. Through Jesus, we can know God.
- C. "He who has seen me has seen the Father" (Jn. 14:9).
- D. "In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell" (1:19).
- E. "In him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily" (2:9).

## **HE IS THE FIRSTBORN OF ALL CREATION (v. 15)**

- A. "Firstborn" places stress upon Jesus' lordship over creation.
  - 1. This does not mean that Jesus was the first created being.
  - 2. The whole context makes it clear that Jesus created all things.
- B. "Firstborn" means honor.
  - 1. Ps. 89:27.
  - 2. Jesus has honor over all creation—he stands above angels.
    - a. He stands above angels, because he created the angels.
    - b. "Thrones, dominions, principalities, authorities" are different divisions of angels.
    - c. "All things were created through him and for him"—all things were created by his power and for his praise.
    - d. Angels were made to serve Jesus.
- C. Jesus holds all things together (v. 17).
  - 1. Jesus governs the laws of the universe.
  - 2. If Jesus were not actively holding this universe together, it would not exist.

## **HE IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH (v. 18)**

- A. Jesus controls the church just as the head controls the body.
- B. Because he is the head of the church, he has the right to expect certain things from the church.
- C. No human has control over the church; that control belongs to God.

### **HE IS THE FIRSTBORN OF THE DEAD (v. 18)**

- A. Jesus was the first Victor from the grave. Others were resurrected before him, but Jesus was the first person to be raised never to die again.
- B. Because Jesus was resurrected, we will also be resurrected (1 Cor. 15:20-23). It is by the power of Jesus that we will be resurrected.

### **HE IS THE MEANS OF RECONCILIATION (v. 20)**

- A. God reconciled the world to himself through the cross of Jesus.
  - 1. Reconcile means to bring back together.
  - 2. We can have fellowship with God, because of our reconciliation.
- B. Peace was made by the blood of Jesus.
  - 1. The price has been paid; everything has been settled.
  - 2. If we accept the blood of Jesus, we will be saved.

### **CONCLUSION**

- A. Jesus has the first place in everything. This is shown in many ways.
- B. Jesus deserves to have the first place in your heart? Does he have it?