

Christ Over All

A study in Colossians

Cosmic Creator
Colossians 1:15-17
May 5, 2024

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created... - Colossians 1:15

I. THE CHRIST HYMN

- The origin of the Christ Hymn (vss. 15-23) is debated. It seems reasonable to consider Paul its author drawn from Jewish “Wisdom Tradition” (Prov. 8:1-36; John 1:1-4; 2 Cor. 2:4-6; Heb. 1:2-4).
- Jesus is the great image-bearer of the invisible God (John 1:18, 14:9; Col. 2:2; Heb. 1:1-4).
- Jesus is the preeminent one over all of creation. He is “firstborn.” Humans are image-bearers of God, Jesus is the exact imprint, the *icon* (Vs. 15; Heb. 1:3).
- We are, in fact, made in the image of our Creator, Jesus Christ (Col. 3:10).
- Jesus is the Creator. All things were made by him:
 - *In heaven and on earth
 - *Visible and invisible
 - *Thrones, dominions, rulers, authorities
 - *Created through him and for him
- Jesus’ existence is eternal, and in him all things hold together. There never was a time when Jesus did not exist (cf. Acts 17:24-28; John 8:58).

KNOW: Jesus is worthy of our honor and praise. In him, and him alone, were all things created, and in him alone do they stand. Creation was created for him, not for us. All creation is “through him and for him.”

DO: Acknowledge that you owe all to Jesus. Submit to him in all things.

Suggested Reading:

The Promised One: Seeing Jesus in Genesis by Nancy Guthrie (Available in the LifePoint Library)

The Glory of Christ by John Owen: Christian Classics for Modern Readers (Available in the LifePoint Library).

For Children:

I Am Creator: The Beginning by Jennie Allen (Available in the LifePoint Library)

The Wonder of Creation by Louie Giglio (Available in the LifePoint Library)

NEXT WEEK’S PREACHING TEXT: Colossians 1:18

Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

Please Read Colossians 1:15-17

1. What does Paul want us to know about Jesus?
2. What does Paul want us to know about creation?
3. What does Paul mean by “firstborn” here? Does he mean, “the first one created?”
4. If Jesus created “all things,” is it possible that he himself was created? Why is this not logical?
5. Talk about what it means that all things were created “for him.” What does that mean for us?
6. All things hold together in Jesus. What does that mean for those who reject his Lordship?
7. What are your personal application points from this text?