

# *Christ Over All*

## *A study in Colossians*

Preeminent Over All  
Colossians 1:18  
May 12, 2024

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. - Colossians 1:18

### I. THE BODY, THE CHURCH

- The universal church is the body of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is its head. He is its source (1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 5:23; Heb. 13:3; 1 Tim. 3:14-16).
- Paul focuses here on Christ himself. He emphasizes the church's organic and dependent relation to Jesus as the ruler and leader of his body (Eph. 1:22-23; 1 Peter 2:2-8).

### II. FIRSTBORN OVER THE NEW CREATION

- Jesus is the beginning of creation, the Creator. He is also firstborn over the new creation. The life of the church is the life of the new creation (John 14:19; Rom. 8:29; 1 Cor. 15:20-26).
- As Creator, Jesus is Lord over creation by right. As the risen Savior, he is Lord in action, deed and power (Rom. 1:3-4).

### III. CHRIST OVER ALL

- Jesus is preeminent over all things; everything; there are no exceptions. Without him nothing was made. Without him, nothing will be made alive (Acts 4:8-12).

**KNOW:** A new creation begins in Jesus Christ. He is the beginning and the firstborn from the dead. He is the preeminent one.

**DO:** Know and follow Jesus as he is, not how we think he might be. He is the exalted one.

#### Suggested Reading:

*The Compelling Community: Where God's Power Makes a Church Attractive* by Mark Dever and Jamie Dunlop (Available in the LifePoint Library).

*Jesus: The Only Way to God* by John Piper (Available in the LifePoint Library).

#### For Children:

*I am Rescuer* by Jeannie Allen (Available in the LifePoint Library)

*Jesus: Big Theology for Little Hearts* by Devon & Jessica Provencher (Available in the LifePoint Library)

**NEXT WEEK'S PREACHING TEXT:** Colossians 1:19-20

#### **Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families**

##### **Please Read Colossians 1:18**

1. What does Paul want us to know about Jesus?
2. What does it mean that Jesus is the "head" of the church?
3. In what ways is the body a good metaphor for the church? Talk about some examples.
4. What does Paul mean by telling us that Jesus is "the beginning?" The beginning of what?
5. What does Paul mean by telling us that Jesus is "the firstborn from the dead?" What does that mean for us?
6. In what areas of your life is Jesus not preeminent? (from your perspective, not Jesus'). What will you do about that?