

A. The Supremacy of Christ in His Person and Position

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.” (15)

1. **He is the image of the invisible God (eternal pre-incarnate emphasis)**
(John 1:18; Hebrews 1:3; John 10:30; Colossians 2:18-19a; Revelation 22:13)
2. **He is the firstborn above all creation**

“For **by** him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities – all things have been created **through** him and **for** him.” (16)

The fact that He created all things shows His supremacy over all things and that all things show subordination to Him.

All things were created through Him (present, active, indicative)
in the heavens (the universe) [classification by location]
on the earth [classification by location]
visible and invisible [classification by essence]
thrones, dominions, rulers, authorities [entities]
(Ephesians 1:21; 3:10; 6:12; John 1:3)

All things were created for Him (perfect, active, indicative)

Created to reveal His glory, greatness and grandeur (Romans 1:20; Psalm 19:1-6)
Created to serve His purpose and pleasure (Ephesians 1:10; 2 Peter 3:13)

“And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” (17)

3. He is before all things

He is before in time and also in rank! He created all things, He existed before all things, therefore He is far superior than all things! Christ is supreme!

4. He is the one holding all things together

- a. The example of Laminin
- b. Molecules and the physical universe being held together

"He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; so that He might come to have first place in everything." (18)

5. He is head of the body, the church

6. He is the beginning = the firstborn from the dead (Revelation 1:5; 5:11; John 3:13)

Purpose: "So that He might come to have **first place** in everything." (18)

Apply: Is there any area of your life that He does not have first place?

"For it was the Father's good pleasure

(1) "...for all the fullness to dwell in Him." (19b)

(2) "And through Him to **reconcile all things** to Himself..." (20a)

"having made peace through the blood of His cross." (20b)

Reconcile what things? "... things on the earth or things in **the heavens**." (20c)

B. The Supremacy of Christ in Salvation (21-29)

1. We were alienated and hostile
2. We were reconciled (aorist, active, indicative)

"in order to **present** you **before** Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach" (22)

3. We should be holy, blameless and above reproach

Apply: What areas of your life do you need to see greater transformation in holiness?

Apply: What area(s) of your life are you not above reproach?

4. We should observe Paul's example: Suffer for the benefit of the body
5. We should be involved in helping believers mature: How can you do this?

"We proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, **so that** we may present every man complete in Christ." (28)

6. We should labor by striving according to God's power

"For this purpose also I labor, striving according to His power, which mightily works within me." (29)

Apply: How do you need to respond to this passage of Scripture?