

“Giving The Lord Preeminence”

Part 2

October 8, 2023

Scripture Text: Colossians 1:16-23 ESV 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.

VERSE 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.*

Paul recognizes and declares that Jesus is the author of creation. Yes! Jesus the Son of God created the heavens and the earth. We can behold His handy work clearer when we leave the city lights and gaze into the skies. It is as if He hurled daimons into the heavens. We are amazed and humbled beholding the glory that evokes the Spirit within us to worship and honor Him even more.

As a child, living near the Steel Mills in Gary, Indiana on those rare nights of crystal-clear skies in the fall, I would look up in the sky wondering how could all those stars remain in the sky? Some may attribute it to gravity but the reality is “The permanence of the universe rests on Christ far more than on gravity. It is a Christ-centric universe because it rest on His authority.”

Paul emphasized that Jesus created the ranks of the spirit beings, such as angels and they all ultimately answer to Him. ***All things were created through him and for him.*** You and I are here to bring Him glory and honor. **Psalms 4:4-5 NKJV 4** *“What is man that You are mindful of him,*

And the son of man that You visit him? 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.”

Beloved, the Lord is honoring us everyday with the ability to reflect Him as Christians, in this world where the blind is leading the blind.

Jesus reminded His disciples of His power and authority when He rose from the grave and commissioned them to preach the gospel. **Matthew 24:18-20 ESV18** *And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

VERSE 17 *And He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

The reason that everything in the world is held together... is because of Jesus Christ. The sun, moon and stars stay in their correct alignments in the sky and every day has the same number of hours. **People in the world live because Christ keeps them alive.** Christ also maintains everything that is not physical and protects us from the unseen dangers in the spiritual realm. Without Christ, everything would break down. He brings order and sets boundaries for everything! Christ is the ruler of everything that He created. **He is our Peace...** **John 14:27 NKJV** *Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

VERSE 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.*

Paul is reminding us that Christ created the church by His death, burial and resurrection. ‘The Church reflects all the Christians in the world from all people groups. Therefore, there is not one town or village that we could ascribe as the headquarters of heaven here on earth. In the Bible, ‘Church’ never refers to a building where Christians have meetings. Christ is no longer in a physical body on earth; for He ascended and is sitting on the right hand of God the Father. Christ lives in all Christians by means of his Holy Spirit (**Romans 8:9-11**). On the other hand, Christ lives on this earth in His church (Christians from all over the world). So, Jesus calls the church His ‘body’. As the ‘head’ Christ is the ruler of His church. There is no human being that has the headship over the Church... not in Jerusalem or Rome!

Christ is the only one who died on the cross and did not stay dead because LIFE never dies! There are some people in the Bible who died and were brought back to life but remain dead today. We read in **2 Kings 4:32-37** about *Elisha and the Shunammite woman's son*; in **John 11:38-44** *Lazarus raised from the tomb*). All those people died again and are waiting for Christ's return. Jesus was the first to become permanently alive before anyone. He has a new glorified body not from the earth. Some people believe that the Church was born on Pentecost but The church was birth when Christ arose from the dead. He ranks above all in the church.

VERSE 19 *For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,*

Jesus Christ in His earthly body was fully man and fully God. Jesus was the full complete representation of God the Father in Character and in deed. **John 14:19** *Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

Marvin Richardson Vincent a Presbyterian minister 1888, elaborated on the phrase ***in Him should all the fullness dwell...*** he gathers into a grand climax the previous statements – ***image of God, first-born of all creation, Creator, the eternally preexistent, the Head of the Church, the victor over death, first in all things...*** Jesus Christ is the Lord of All!

VERSE 20 *and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

It is in Jesus Christ that God purposed to reconciled sinful humanity. When Adam and Eve sinned against the will of God, they became enemies and separated from a Holy and Righteous God. Their sin spiraled out of control effecting everything created and Jesus's sacrificial death was the prescription to restore the balance in the earth and Heaven. If there was ever a time that the people of God should praise the Lord is in the reading of **2 Corinthians 5:21** NKJV *"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."* Hallelujah! Somebody born again!

VERSE 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,*

God sent His Son do what no other created being could do to redeem and restore our eternal relationship with the Godhead. **2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV** *Therefore, if any man be in Christ old things have passed away and behold all things become new.* God offers us second chances to begin anew! Those who continue to live by their own will remain to be the enemies of God.

VERSE 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.*

Applications:

The best way to maintain peace in our hearts is by submitting everything to the Lord. **Psalm 37:5** *Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass.*

The Lord will reconcile all things under His authority because His Kingdom has no end.