



July 31st, 2005

CHRIST: BEFORE ALL THINGS

Colossians 1.15-19

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him." Colossians 1.15-19

Just who is Christ to you? And what does it mean to follow him? How would you define your relationship to Jesus Christ?

As we will see today, the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ should have first place in everything. He should not merely be prominent; he should be pre-eminent. Jesus Christ does not want to be merely an important part of your life; he wants to be first in your life.

Our text today is one of the most moving and theologically profound passages of Scripture concerning Christ's absolute supremacy, his absolute preeminence in everything. The simple but profound confession of the early Church was "Jesus Christ is Lord." That is still the confession of the Church.

*"Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: **God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.**"*

*"When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, '**Brothers, what shall we do?**'"* Acts 2.37

Core Competencies

Trinity

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." 2 Corinthians 13.14

Single-mindedness

I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6.33

In our text today, the apostle Paul gives us several good reasons why Jesus should have first place in all our lives. Let's look at them briefly. He should have first place in your life because...

1. He is the Manifestation of God.

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation."

*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**"* John 1.1

*"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the **exact representation** of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word."* Hebrews 1.3

*"Who, being in very nature God, did not consider **equality with God** something to be grasped."* Philippians 2.6

He also deserves to be first in your life because...

2. He is the Creator of the Universe.

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." Colossians 1.15-17

*"Through him all things were made; **without him nothing was made** that has been made."* John 1.3

*"In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and **through whom he made the universe.**"* Hebrews 1.1-2

Christ should have first place in your life because...

3. He is the Head of the Church

"And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him." Colossians 1:18-19