

Slide 1: The Supremacy of Christ

Colossians 1:15–20 is one of the most majestic passages in all of Scripture—it exalts the supremacy of Christ in creation, redemption, and reconciliation.

It's a passage that leaves you in awe and in wonder at the greatness of Almighty God.

There's a question that echoes through every generation, every culture, and every heart: **Who is Jesus—really?**

Of all the questions that might be posed to modern men and women, none is more important than this. It's no exaggeration to say that this is the central question of history and the most important issue anyone will ever face.

Who is Jesus Christ? Where did He come from? Why did He come? And what difference does His coming make in my life?

The Christian life is all about Jesus! He is the heart and core, the touchstone of all that we believe.

You can be mistaken on some secondary issues and still be a Christian, but if you're wrong about Jesus, you are wrong in the worst possible place.

Our faith in Jesus must be more than just an emotional experience of **“having Jesus in my heart.”** Our faith must rest on the revealed truth about Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

Paul paints an astounding portrait of Jesus. And what does he tell us?

He lifts our eyes from the trials of life and sets them on the One who rules over life itself. Every molecule, every moment, every soul, every story—**Jesus holds it all together.**

This isn't just theology—it's reality. And it changes the way we live, worship, and walk with God.

We live in a world filled with competing voices and rival claims. Celebrities are idolized. Politicians are praised—or feared. Philosophies rise and fall. Technologies dazzle us.

But in the midst of this noisy world, there is One who stands supreme over all. **His name is Jesus Christ.**

The apostle Paul, in just a few short verses in Colossians 1, takes us to the highest peaks of Christology.

He unveils for us not just a good teacher or moral example, but the exalted, preeminent Lord of all creation. As we walk through this passage, may our hearts be lifted in joyful worship as we behold the glory of Jesus.

Today we look at Christ not just as Saviour, **but as Sovereign.** Not just on the cross, but on the throne.

Let's behold His glory—and respond with awe, surrender, and joy.

We live in a land of diversity. There is a mixture of nationalities, a mixture of political persuasions, a mixture of tastes.

With this diversity also comes a variety of religious beliefs. There's the influx of Eastern mysticism, the rise in popularity of the occult, a host of manmade gods, as well as the New Age movement which is a combination of all kinds of stuff.

We are bombarded on every front with distortions and outright denials of the Christian faith.

Many have responded to this diversity by watering down the truth of the Gospel.

They have chosen to become "**more inclusive**".

They have minimized the areas of disagreement so that the emphasis can be on the things that are held in common. This may sound noble, but is really a denial of the truth of Scripture.

In the city of Colosse the church was being infiltrated by those who had a distorted faith. They focused their attention on angels and the gaining of unique and special knowledge and blessings. They spent a great deal of time trying to distinguish between the physical and the spiritual realms.

They urged a blending of all religions. They focused on man's efforts. They proclaimed a very "secular" faith similar to what we are seeing in our own day.

Paul's approach to this problem is very instructive. **He does not attack the heresy but emphasizes the truth of the Gospel.**

In our passage this morning Paul underlines the most important distinctive of our faith. In these verses he instructs us about the distinctiveness of Jesus. As you listen to these verses, you will notice that the Jesus described by Scripture, is quite different than the Jesus you usually hear talked about.

Slide 2: Supreme Above All Colossians 1:18

Our text today doesn't just describe Christ's position—it declares his preeminence. It's not that He is first among equals. **It's that He is unrivaled.**

Paul, writing to the Colossians, makes it unmistakably clear: Jesus is not simply prominent—**He is preeminent.** He is not just one voice among many—**He is Supreme Over All.**

Slide 3: Christ is Supreme in Revelation Colossians 1:15

Paul tells us that Jesus was more than one of the prophets. **He speaks in MUCH stronger terms:** "*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*" Throughout the New Testament, similar statements are made:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. (John. 1:1-3)

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (2 Cor. 4:4)

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, (Philippians 2:5,6)

The Bible claims Jesus is not merely someone who talked about God. **He is the very image—the perfect, visible manifestation—of the invisible God, the One who is God in human form.**

Many people conclude that they can never know or have a relationship with God because He is invisible. **This is not true, for we can know God through Christ.**

We may never get to the Swiss Alps or the mighty Rockies, but we can get an idea of their majesty by looking at pictures or videos of those spots.

You may not have seen the Grand Canyon personally, but you can get an idea of its majesty by looking at pictures or reading a book. **These things are the image of the Canyon.**

In Jesus, the unknowable God becomes knowable. The unseen becomes seen. The infinite becomes approachable. **When you look at Jesus you "SEE" God.**

If you want to know what God is like—look to Jesus. He perfectly reveals the heart, character, and will of the Father. He's not just like God—He is God revealed

He's also called the "firstborn over all creation." This does not mean He was created, or that there would be others **"born"** after Him. (In fact, we'll see that this is impossible, because Paul goes on to tell us that Jesus is the one who DOES the creating.)

This text shows us that any presentation of Jesus that is less than divine is a false presentation. Anyone who seeks to make Jesus merely a good man, a great teacher, or a prophet from God is teaching a lie. **He is uniquely God who became like us to rescue us.**

Paul does not stop by telling us that Jesus is uniquely God in human form. He goes on to emphasize this point.

Slide 4: Christ is Supreme in Creation Colossians 1:15-16

Listen to these words, *"For by him all things were created."* Jesus was not one of the created . . . **He was the Creator!**

But notice that this creation includes not just the creation of the earth. He created all things *"in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities."*

Everything that exists comes from Him. He alone is Supreme. He alone is God.

The title "Firstborn" does not suggest that Christ was made—it proclaims that He reigns. It declares His sovereign authority, His unrivaled honour, and His supreme position above all creation.

He is not simply the most important among created things—He stands outside of creation entirely, as its Author and Architect.

Before galaxies spun, before time ticked its first beat, before space stretched wide—He was. Eternal. Infinite. Supreme. And from His Word, all things came into being.

“All things” means everything—the physical and the spiritual, things on earth and in heaven. Thrones, dominions, rulers, authorities—they were all created by Him and for Him.

In Paul's day there was a great fascination and worship of Angels. **But our text reminds us that He made the angels!** The worship of angels or any spiritual beings is to worship the created rather than the Creator.

Notice also that Jesus is not only the agent of Creation . . . **He is the reason for Creation.** Paul says, *"all things were created by him and FOR him."* (V. 16)

The purpose of creation was to bring praise and honour to the Son. In the book of Philippians we read,

“God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil. 2:9-11)

Slide 5: Christ Is Supreme in Sustaining All Things Colossians 1:17

Jesus is not only *"before all things"* we are also told that *"in him all things hold together."*

Jesus did not create the world and then walk away. His leadership and Lordship over creation is essential for every moment of every day. **Were He to take His hands off us for a minute we would fall apart.**

He is the one who keeps things going. He makes the sun to shine, the rain to fall, the earth to rotate, the seasons to come and go. He is the one who continues to grant life to our bodies. At any given moment He could withdraw His hand, and we would be finished.

Without Him we could do nothing. Every heartbeat and every day we live is a gift from our Lord.

Not only did Christ create all things, but He holds them together. The universe doesn't function on its own. Gravity, time, life—it all continues because Jesus sustains it.

If Christ were to remove His sustaining hand, the universe would collapse into chaos.

Jesus isn't like a watchmaker who winds up the world and walks away. He is actively involved, intimately holding the atoms and galaxies in place—and He holds you together too.

Slide 6: Christ Is Supreme in the Church Colossians 1:18

This should go without saying but it must be said. **This is not my church, or your church . . . it's His Church!** He founded it, and He's in charge of it.

The church is not a business, a club, or a social institution. **It is a living body—and Christ is its Head.** He leads, directs, and gives life to His people.

Pastors may shepherd, elders may guide, but Christ is the Supreme Leader of the Church. We are not here to promote ourselves or a brand—we are here to lift up the name of Jesus.

In this day when more and more emphasis is on making the church more like a corporation with the Pastor as the CEO, it's important that we remember that the church is not a corporation, it's a congregation, and we are His body.

Jesus alone should be the one to call the shots.

No individual, no matter how charismatic, educated, or gifted can change a human life . . . only God can. **Our job is not to call people to an organization but to Christ.**

Slide 7: Christ Is Supreme in Resurrection Colossians 1:18

"He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy."

Lazarus, Dorcas, the widow of Nain's son, and Jairus' daughter - **all died again.**

But Jesus was "the first to die, be buried and rise again to never die."

Praise God He won't be the last! He is the prototype. What happened to Him will happen to all those who believe in Him. There will be a great getting up morning some glad day!

Because He lives, we too shall live. His resurrection ensures that death is not the end for those who trust in Him. His victory over death is the guarantee of ours.

Slide 8: Christ Is Supreme in Redemption Colossians 1:19-20

The final point Paul makes in our text is in verse 19-20. *"For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."*

Christ didn't just create and sustain us—He redeemed us. He stepped into the mess of our broken world, bore our sin, and made peace through His blood.

The fullness of God dwelt in Him, and He gave Himself fully on the cross to reconcile sinners to God.

No one else could bring peace between heaven and earth. **But Jesus did.**

Paul tells us that everything that was necessary for our redemption was accomplished through Christ's work on our behalf. There is nothing that needs to be added to His work.

People want gimmicks, formulas, magic words. They want a list of things they need to do.

The Bible says, *"believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved."* I dare not go beyond that Word.

Jesus said, *"I am THE way, the truth, and the life, NO ONE comes to the Father except through me."* We don't need psychics, we don't need formulas, we don't need anything but Christ's work on our behalf.

The sufficiency of Christ is not only in terms of our salvation, but in every area of our lives.

He is sufficient to fill the ache of loneliness.

He is sufficient to give strength for trials

His Word is a sufficient guide for your life

His provision is sufficient for us to survive and to enjoy life

His sacrifice is sufficient to pay for our sin

Slide 9: Christ Is Supreme Over all Colossians 1:18

I'd like to close with these words, *"so that in EVERYTHING he might have supremacy."* Jesus is Supreme. There's no one above Him, no one more important. He's to have first place in our,

thinking

our worship

our work

our families

our leisure activities

our time with our friends

our use of our money

our use of our time

our relationships with others

Paul's words leave us with no doubt: Christ is not one among many—He is above all.

Supreme in creation. Supreme in resurrection. Supreme in authority. Supreme in the hearts of his people.

He reveals God perfectly.

He created everything.

He sustains the universe.

He leads His Church.

He conquered death. He brings us peace with God.

Let us not treat Jesus as a footnote in our lives—**He is the headline. He is supreme.**

Let every heart in this place say, Jesus is Lord.