



## Part 2: The Hope of the Gospel October 1, 2017

*Colossians 1:15–23*

*“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities — all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 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. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. And you, who once were estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, provided that you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which has been preached to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.” (Colossians 1:15–23)*

The Difficulties in the Text (v 15, v20, v23)

### 3 Questions

1. What does it mean for Christ to be “the firstborn of all creation”?
2. Does “through him to reconcile all things” mean universalism?
  - a. The Scope Is Renewed Humanity  
*Colossians 3:11 “Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all.”*
  - b. All Things in The New Creation

3. Does “preached to every creature under heaven” mean the Great Commission is complete?

### 4 Victorious Truths

1. Christ: Not Merely \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_

*“In him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily” (2:9).*

*2 Corinthians 4:4 “the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the likeness of God.”*

2. Creation: Not Rescued Old, but \_\_\_\_\_

3. Commission: \_\_\_\_\_, but for All Peoples

\*The gospel is not merely a proclamation of good news. It is the power of God to save!

-It comes not only in word but in power and in the Holy Spirit (1 Thess 1:5).

-It is the instrument of God’s effectual call (2 Thess 2:14).

-It is the occasion of his regenerating power (1 Peter 1:23)

-It accomplishes what God sends it forth to do.

4. The Gospel is \_\_\_\_\_

-It is living and active and sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit (Hebrews 4:11–12).

-It is like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer which breaks the rock in pieces (Jeremiah 23:29).

-It goes forth from his mouth and does not return empty, but accomplishes that for which he sent it (Isaiah 55:11).

-The grass withers and the flowers fall but the word of our God stands forever (Isaiah 40:8).

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