

“Jesus is!”
Colossians 1:15-18

Colossians #4
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Big Idea: *Jesus is The King who rules and reigns over everything and everyone!*

Jesus is... The Image of the Invisible God | v.15.

- The word “image” comes from the Greek word “eikōn,” meaning “an exact image, copy, likeness, an exact representation.”
- John 4:24 *“God is Spirit...”*
- 1 Timothy 6:16 says that God *“dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see.”*
- Hebrews 1:3 *“The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact imprint (or the exact representation) of his being.”*
- John 1:18 *“No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.”*

Jesus is... The Firstborn of all Creation | v.15.

- Arian heresy → “There was a time when He [Jesus] was not.
- “firstborn” used in this context as a metaphor to describe one who occupies the rank, the rights, and the privilege of being firstborn, without literally being “firstborn.”
- God declared Israel to be “firstborn” over the nations of the earth ~ Exodus 4:22
- God declared David to be his “firstborn” over the kinds of the earth ~ Psalm 89:27

Jesus is... The Creator | v.16.

- Genesis 1:1 *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*
- “Visible and invisible” simply means both the physical and spiritual world was created by God, and all dominions, powers and creatures in heaven and on earth are created and established by God
- Colossian Heresy was infatuated with angels and other spiritual beings
- Jesus has created this world ultimately and primarily for His own glory and His own enjoyment.

Jesus is... Before All Things | v.17.

- Jesus is before all created things. It means He and no other.
- Before.” It could refer to priority in time or in rank, but here the idea of time is more suitable. His existence is before all things.
- John 1:1-2 *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.”*
- John 8:58 *“I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, I am!”*
- Revelation 1:8 *“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”*
- Psalm 90:2 *“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.”*

Jesus is... The Sustainer | v.17.

- “Holds Together” means to keep in place, to possess consistence, to cohere.
- Hebrews 1:3 *“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.”*
- Westminster Shorter Catechism; Q.11: What are God’s works of providence? A: God’s works of providence are his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures and all their actions.
- He’s got the whole world in His hands, and he’s got you!

Jesus is... The Head of the Church | v.18.

- “Head” refers to both source and authority
- Matthew 16:16-18 ¹⁶ “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”

Jesus is... The Firstborn From the Dead | v.18.

- Jesus’ supremacy over death! Because Jesus rose, we will too (and all who have fallen asleep”
- 1 Corinthians 15:20-24 | The Resurrection from the Dead | ²⁰ *But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.* ²¹ *For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.* ²² *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.* ²³ *But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.* ²⁴ *Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.*

Jesus is... Preeminent | v.18.

- This is the only place in the whole New Testament that we find this word “preeminent.”
- “Preeminent” means “to be first” or “to hold first place” or chief place. It is to be supreme.
- Colossians 1:18...*“so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.”* [NASB]
- Abraham Kuper *“There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry, Mine!”*

Reflection Questions:

1. Who is Jesus to you (*Myth, Man, Madman, Magician, Messenger, Mockery, Messiah/Majesty*)?
Take a moment to consider how you have come to that conclusion.
2. What areas of your life do you struggle to give God reign over?
What holds you back from giving these areas over to God?
Take a moment to acknowledge and confess these areas.
3. What would it look like in your everyday life to live as a citizen of God’s Kingdom?
Pray and Ask for the Holy Spirit’s help and dependency to live for King Jesus.
4. Have you surrendered your life to King Jesus?
If yes, take a moment to thank God and Praise God.
If not, today can be the day of salvation for you. (Read: Acts 3:19, Romans 10:9-11; and John 1:12)
**(I would love to speak and pray with you after service)!*