

**"The Supremacy of Jesus Christ"**

**Part 2**

**Colossians 1:15-20**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Colossians we were looking at verses 15-20 and, in these verses, we are able to see the supremacy of Jesus Christ. To say that Jesus is to have the supremacy means that He is supreme over everything. In these verses Paul mentions seven characteristics that show why Jesus is to have the supremacy in all things. Before we get back into the section before us let me remind you of why this letter was written by Paul. The seeds of Gnosticism were just starting to sprout in this church. In the heresy there were several things being taught.

1. It had a small amount of Jewishness mixed in and it was taught there was a need to observe Old Testament laws and ceremonies.
2. It was also a teaching in which they believed that some had a special deeper knowledge.
3. It also involved the worship of angels.
4. It denied the deity of Jesus Christ.

In all of this they were teaching that Jesus was not enough. They were teaching that there was more for Christians apart from Jesus Christ. This is exactly why we have the text that is before us. Paul was set on showing these believers that Jesus Christ is supreme. He qualifies to have all the supremacy because of these seven characteristics.

➤ **Jesus has all Supremacy because:**

1. **He is the image of God.**

**Notice Colossians 1:15a**

If we want to know what God is like we need to look closely at Jesus as He walked on the earth because He was the exact image of God the Father. He was fully man and He was fully God.

**Hebrews 1:1-3**

*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,*

*<sup>2</sup> Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;*

<sup>3</sup> *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:*

**John 14:8-11**

<sup>8</sup> *Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.*

<sup>9</sup> *Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?*

<sup>10</sup> *Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.*

<sup>11</sup> *Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.*

**2. He is the firstborn of every creature.**

**Notice Colossians 1:15B**

This speaks of the position of Jesus Christ and not the order of birth. This phrase carries two points of thought; Jesus preceded all of creation and He is sovereign over all of creation.

**Psalm 89:27**

<sup>27</sup> *Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.*

This Psalm is written concerning David but it also applies to Jesus Christ.

Now let me just say that the Jehovah's Witnesses will use Colossians 1:15 in an attempt to teach that Jesus was not eternal but that He was born and therefore He had a beginning like us. Let me show you just one of many problems with this theology.

**Hebrews 1:3-6**

<sup>3</sup> *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:*

<sup>4</sup> *Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.*

<sup>5</sup> *For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?*

<sup>6</sup> *And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.*

The angels worship Jesus Christ. The Bible is very clear that ONLY God is to be worshipped.

### **Exodus 20:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*

<sup>5</sup> *Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;*

### **3. He is the Creator of the Universe.**

#### **Notice Colossians 1:16**

Everything in our universe has been created by Jesus Christ. It was all created by Him and for Him. The entire creation declares the glory of Jesus Christ.

#### **Psalm 19:1-3**

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

<sup>2</sup> *Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.*

<sup>3</sup> *There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.*

#### **Romans 1:20**

<sup>20</sup> *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

#### **Notice Colossians 1:17**

**a. He is before all things.**

This points to the eternality of Jesus Christ. He is the only Man that existed before He was born.

**b. By Him all things consist.**

Everything in our world is held together and functions the way it should because Jesus Christ controls it all and holds it all together.

**Mark 4:37-39**

*<sup>37</sup> And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.*

*<sup>38</sup> And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?*

*<sup>39</sup> And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.*

**Psalm 89:9**

*<sup>9</sup> Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them.*

**Job 38:11**

*<sup>11</sup> And said, Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?*

**Psalm 104:5-9**

*<sup>5</sup> Who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.*

*<sup>6</sup> Thou coveredst it with the deep as with a garment: the waters stood above the mountains.*

*<sup>7</sup> At thy rebuke they fled; at the voice of thy thunder they hasted away.*

*<sup>8</sup> They go up by the mountains; they go down by the valleys unto the place which thou hast founded for them.*

*<sup>9</sup> Thou hast set a bound that they may not pass over; that they turn not again to cover the earth.*

4. He is the Head of the Church.

Notice Colossians 1:18

As the Head of the church, He is the absolute Authority of the church. All our orders and our direction come from Jesus Christ. He is also the Builder of the church.

Matthew 16:17-18

<sup>17</sup> *And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*

<sup>18</sup> *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock **I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.***

In any living being the body is the servant of the head. That is exactly the way the church is to function. Also, any body without the head would be powerless. So, Jesus Christ is the power and the wisdom of the church. Without Him we would have no life, no direction, and no Truth. As the Head of the church, our Lord takes members who are sinful depraved objects and transforms them into vessels of glory and trophies of grace. This is exactly why He is worthy of all supremacy.

Ephesians 2:4-7

<sup>4</sup> *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,*

<sup>5</sup> *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*

<sup>6</sup> *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*

<sup>7</sup> *That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

5. He is the firstborn from the dead.

Notice Colossians 1:18 again.

Jesus was not the first person to be resurrected. In the Old Testament Elisha raised a boy from the dead. There was a total of three people raised in the Old Testament. So, what does this mean? Jesus Christ was the first to rise from the dead and never die again. Jesus is the firstfruits of the resurrection.

**1 Corinthians 15:20**

*<sup>20</sup> But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*

**6. In Him dwells all the fulness.**

**Notice Colossians 1:19**

This is the pinnacle statement. This statement was used to correct the Gnostics and their heresy. They taught that Jesus did not possess all that the believer needed. There was more to be had through philosophy, through the Law, and through ceremonies. Paul tells them here that in Christ dwells all the fulness. There is nothing else to be had. If you have Jesus Christ, you have it all.

**7. He is the Reconciler of all things.**

**Notice Colossians 1:20**

There is so much to be said about this statement but time does not permit.

**2 Corinthians 5:17-18**

*<sup>17</sup> Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

*<sup>18</sup> And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;*

Let me just say that the idea here is the Kingdom when all that was lost will be brought back into harmony again.

**Conclusion:**

When we have Jesus, we have all we need. We have the One who has the Supremacy over all creation.