



Colossians 1:15

"... the **firstborn** over all creation."

Psalm 89:27 -

"And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth."

David is described as the "firstborn," even though he was the youngest of eight sons!

Colossians 1:15

"... the firstborn **over all** creation.

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities;

all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."

Jesus is the source & creator of ALL creation.

Thus, He Himself is separate from and is not Himself a creature!

He sustains all creation and thus has prominence over it all!

All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

John 1:6

Colossians 1:18

"And he is the **head** of the body, the church..."

Word: kefalli.
Pronounce: kef-al-ay'
Strong's Number: G2728
Orig: from the primary kapto (in the sense of seizing); the head (as the part most readily taken hold of), literally or figuratively--head.
Use: κεφαλή, Noun Feminine
Heb Strong: H1128 H1133 H1135 H1136 H1161 H1218
1) the head, both of men and often of animals. Since the loss of the head destroys life, this word is used in the phrases relating to capital and extreme punishment.
2) metaph. anything supreme, chief, prominent
2a) of persons, master lord, of a husband in relation to his wife
2b) of Christ: the Lord of the husband and of the Church
2c) of things: the corner stone.

Colossians 1:18

"And he is the head of the body, the church..."

**Jesus is exalted as "head"...
the ultimate authority of His church...**

It is His will that imparts life to and directs all aspects of the church.

Colossians 1:18

"... the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead..."

There are accounts in Scripture (both OT & NT) about God raising people from the dead but they all happened prior to Jesus' resurrection...

... and they were all temporary, followed again by another natural death.

Colossians 1:18

"... the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead..."

**Jesus was the first to rise from the dead,
no more to die!
... the first to rise immortal and incorruptible!**

"I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death."

Revelation 1:18

Colossians 1:18-20

"... 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, 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.

Jesus not only bears God's glory, but all that God is also dwells in him. He possesses the wisdom, power, Spirit, and glory of God. To say that all this divine fullness dwells in Jesus is to say that he is fully God.

The ESV Study Bible - Crossway Bibles. (2008).

Colossians 1:18-20

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Acts 4:12 – "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Colossians 1:18-20

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It was the Father's good pleasure that Jesus should be the supreme agent of creation and redemption and...

Exalted to the status of supremacy!

Salvation is not about us; it is about Christ:
"For" him, "through" him, and "to" him!

(v19-20)

Colossians 1:18-20

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I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. — John 12:24

Colossians 1:18-20

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This is one verse, in one chapter, of one book describing His sovereignty and deity ... and the Bible has 66 books of this! All of these names, all of these titles, all of these descriptions of His attributes, they are pointing to one thing: "[T]hat in all things He might have the preeminence." In talking with a very good friend regarding the meaning of "preeminence," they pointed out that in describing Christ's preeminence, the definition is not merely "the first of several or many," with the idea that there are others competing and Christ is the best (which He is). There is simply no competition. He is completely other. Holy. Set apart. Nothing and no one else can even come close to being in the running with Him! Nothing of earth or heaven can be compared to Him. He is preeminent. Christ is First.

<https://liferealjourney.com/2021/01/2021-journey-challenge18/>

Colossians 1:21-23

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. ²² But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation —

²³ **if you continue in your faith,** established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel.

This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Think about this in its context...

Colossians 1:23-24

2 Corinthians 11:25-30 New International Version (NIV)

Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

Galatians 1:1 -

"Paul, an apostle (not sent from men nor through the agency of man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead)..."

And, "paying the price!"

Colossians 1:23-24

This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

²⁴ Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church.

Jesus... the Initiator & Trailblazer!
(Hebrews 12:2)

Paul... Follows along, as one who aids!
(1 Corinthians 11:1)



To be continued next week!

Would Paul have written or struggled as He did if it wasn't necessary?