

The Supremacy of Christ in Creation and Redemption Colossians 1:15-23

The Point: We should praise Jesus for his supremacy in creation and redemption.

I. Worship Jesus for his Supremacy in Creation (15-17).

a. Jesus is the Revealer (15a)

- God has made himself known in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ. Paul says, “He is the image of the invisible God.” In other words, Jesus makes visible the God who is invisible. When we look at Jesus, we are looking at God. If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus. (John 1:18; 14:8-9)
- **App: If you want to increase in the knowledge of God, get to know Jesus.**

b. Jesus reigns over all his creation (15b-16)

- How are we to understand the word “firstborn”? The word can have connotations of chronology, but the word can also carry the idea of position or rank. Take Psalm 89:27 for example, which points to the Messiah: “I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.”
- If that wasn’t enough, the very next line seals the deal. **16** “*For by him all things were created*”
- He is the architect (by him), the builder (through him), and the goal (for him) of creation.
- St. Augustine: “You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.” Are you restless? You were made for God!
- **App: If you want to fulfill your created purpose, live for Jesus.**

c. Jesus sustains his creation (17)

- Jesus also sustains all things. As Physicists will tell you: “The strong and weak nuclear forces that hold nuclei together are tuned just right. Any strong or weaker and we wouldn’t exist.”
- Now, let’s move from his sustaining work in science to his sustaining work in our suffering. Jesus tells us in the gospels that we will have trouble in this world.
- How do we hold up during our suffering? We rest in a Jesus that not only made us but also sustains us through life’s greatest difficulties.
- **App: If you want to handle times of suffering, rest in Jesus.**

II. Worship Jesus for his Supremacy in Redemption (18-20).

a. Jesus is the head of the church (18a)

- Jesus leads his redeemed people. All authority in the church belongs to Jesus.
- The idea of Jesus being the “head of the church” also points to how he sustains the church’s very existence. We thrive and bear fruit for God’s glory only as we stay connected to Jesus.
- **App: If we want this church to thrive, we must submit to Jesus.**

b. Jesus is supreme over all things (18b).

- Jesus reigns over all. Jesus has no rivals. He has no competitors. He is supreme over all things.
- **App: If you want your life to be well-ordered, recognize Jesus as supreme.**
- Let me ask you something: Is Jesus supreme in your life down to the details? How much do you think about him? How much do you talk about him? Is Jesus a regular part of your conversation? Does his name come up, ever? When good things happen in your life, do you give glory to Jesus? When Jesus is supreme in our lives, we will not be able to get enough of him.

c. Jesus is fully God (19).

- B.B. Warfield, “The very deity of God, that which makes God, God in all of its completeness has its permanent home in our Lord.”
- Come to his fullness in all of your emptiness... GOSPEL Initially and Consistently Come to his fullness. Keep coming to his fullness. “Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to the cross I cling.”
- **App: If you want to be filled with divine power, come to Jesus.**

d. Jesus reconciles all things through his cross (20)

- What is verse 20 saying? It is saying that through his work on the cross, Jesus will one day reverse all of the effects of the fall and usher in the restoration of all things. The curse that resulted from the fall of man effected the whole creation. Romans 8 says all of creation groans for the glory that will be revealed. One day Jesus will right every wrong.
- **App: If you want to make sense of our world, cling to the cross of Jesus.**

III. Worship Jesus by continuing in the redemption you have received (21-23).

- What did their life look like before they experienced the cross? To summarize, unbelievers are justly separated from God because they rebel against him in their thoughts and their actions.
- Jesus accomplished the work of redemption and reconciliation on the cross. He paid the penalty for our sin and died as our substitute that we might have life in him. He did the work.
- Why did he die? “in order to present us holy and blameless and above reproach before him.” Amazing thought! We will stand before God one day set apart to God, without blemish, and in a position where no one can even level a charge against us!
- How do we get from here to there? **Verse 23** Continue in the faith. This is a great verse on what perseverance looks like. Those who truly know Jesus and love Jesus will continue with Jesus.
- **App: If you want to continue in the faith, fall in love with Jesus.**
- Here’s a great danger for us this morning: we could progress in our knowledge of Jesus and still not love Jesus anymore than we did when we walked in the room.

Conclusion: “It has been the distinctive aim, and the sincere desire of my ministry amongst you, to make known and to endear the Saviour to your hearts. . . . From the moment that that believing vision burst upon my view, and that spiritual conviction fastened itself upon my heart, “Redeeming love has been my theme, And shall be till I die.” And may I, as from a languid couch, still press the Saviour’s claims to your regard? Oh, how worthy is he of your most exalted conceptions,—of your most implicit confidence,—of your most self-denying service,—of your most fervent love. When he could give you no more—and the fathomless depths of his love, and the boundless resources of his grace, would not be satisfied by giving you less—he gave you himself. Robed in your nature, laden with your curse, oppressed with your sorrows, wounded for your transgressions, and slain for your sins, he gave his entire self for you. And let it be remembered that it is a continuous presentation of the hoarded and exhaustless treasures of his love. His redeeming work now finished, he is perpetually engaged in distributing out to his church the blessings of that “offering made once for all.” He constantly asks your faith,—woos your affection,—invites your grief,—and you repair with your daily trials to his sympathy, and with your hourly guilt to his blood. You cannot in your drafts upon Christ’s fullness be too covetous, nor in your expectations of supply be too extravagant. You may fail, as, alas! the most of us do, in making too little of Christ,—you cannot fail, in making too much of him.” – Octavius Winslow

Let’s be a church that makes much of Jesus Christ in all of his supremacy! Prayer