

w/b 6th September 2015

Colossians 1:15-23: Jesus Is Supreme

We frequently hear: "All roads lead to God. Everyone is trying to get to the same place. That belief is fine for you, but I don't buy it for myself. Only bigots and fanatics label belief *true* or *false*."

The Colossians heard, "Worship Jesus, but not exclusively. Jesus is just one spirit among many to be worshiped." In this passage we'll study Paul's adamant declaration of Christ's supremacy over every being and idea which invites our attention.

Warming Up to God

1. What person comes to mind when you think of greatness? (other than Christ)

2. Whom do you look up to? Why?

3. What qualities stand out in a person you admire?

What problems have you encountered in helping someone understand why Jesus is the only way to God?

Read Colossians 1:15-23

Discovering the Word

- Make as many statements as you can about why Jesus is supreme (vv. 15-18).
Begin each with, "Christ is ..."
- What does it mean that Christ is the "head of the body, the church"?
What implications should this have in the way churches are governed and run? (v. 18)?
- What actions was God pleased to take to reconcile us to himself (vv. 19-22)?
- How does understanding God's actions help you explain why Jesus is the only way to God?

Applying the Word

- How do the words *reconciled*, *holy in his sight*, *without blemish* and *free from accusation* (vv. 22-23) motivate you to continue firm in your faith in Christ?
- How might those words appeal to unspoken needs of the friends you want to introduce to Jesus?
- How did some recent choice you made about your time or money reflect Christ's supreme place in your life?

Responding in Prayer

Spend some time worshiping Jesus Christ for who he is and what he has done for you.

Spend time prayerfully considering whom you may want to invite on the Alpha course in a couple of weeks time so that they might make Christ Lord of their lives too.

(Majority of study questions provided by IVP Press online study guide)