

w/b 29th May 2016

THEME: THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST LIFE APPLICATION

PASSAGE: Colossians 1:15-23

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ 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.

²¹ Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of ^[a] your evil behaviour. 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

Warming Up to God

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" (v. 18)?
- What action was God pleased to take to reconcile us to himself (vv. 19-22)?
- As you read this passage what wrong beliefs about Christ did Paul possibly need to challenge in these verses?
- 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 did some recent choice you made about your decisions, 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.

The whole study is from the IVP online study guide (adapted)