



**The Greatness and Works of the Son of God (Jesus, the Christ)
Provide Hope and Direction to Every Person Who Claims Their
Inheritance.**

Claim Your Inheritance!!

Colossians 1:15-23, Lesson #4, Gerald Cumby, Teacher

Colossians 1:15-20, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross."

God, the Father, identifies and compliments His "One of a Kind" Son. However...Remember—Jesus represents and glorifies His Father in all that He does!

Note: Many Bible scholars think that Colossians 1:15-20 came from a poem or a hymn in the early Church that described what Christians believed about Jesus. This might be possible, but there is no proof of such claim.

Let's look at the Scripture of which we can always rely on and know as truth.

- **He is the image of the invisible God:**
 - ✓ **The word translated image (Greek) expressed two (2) ideas.**
 1. **Likeness**, as in the image on a coin or the reflection in a mirror.
 2. **Manifestation**, with the sense that God is fully revealed in Jesus.

It means that "Jesus is the very stamp of God the Father." (Robertson)
 - ✓ **Invisible God = Not seen by the bodily eye; but, in Christ...the God of the universe can be known.** Literally meaning, "Look at

God's creation on earth and beyond the earth (the heavens) and know God, the Father, is seen. **Jesus represents His Father!**

- **The firstborn over all creation:**

Firstborn = describes:

- ✓ **Priority in time...** Meaning "Jesus being before all created things."
- ✓ **Supremacy in rank...** Jesus being of a supremely different order than all created things.

"Creator and the Perfect Creation is personified in Jesus" (Cumby)

NOTE: **Firstborn** is also used of Jesus in Colossians 1:18, Romans 8:29, Hebrews 1:6, and Revelation 1:5.

- ***For by Him all things were created:*** There is no doubt that Jesus is the author of *all* creation. He Himself is not a created being.

- ✓ ***When we behold the wonder and the glory of the world Jesus created, we worship and honor Him all the more.***

- *The earth travels around the sun about eight times the speed of a bullet fired from a gun.*

- *A single human chromosome contains twenty billion bits of information. How much information is that? If written in ordinary books, in ordinary language, it would take about four thousand volumes.*

- ✓ **Whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers:**

The rest of the letter kind of centers in on the Colossian Heresy; that being an elaborate angelology belief, which effectively placed angels as mediators between God and man. Paul emphasized that whatever ranks of spirit beings there may be, Jesus created them all and they all ultimately answer to Him.

In other words, "Grow up!"

- **He is before all things... who is the beginning:**

True prophets are always told ahead of time specific spiritual awakenings...and coming heresies.

- ✓ Centuries after Paul, a dangerous (yet popular) teacher named Arius claimed that Jesus was not truly God and that there was a time when He did not exist.
- ✓ Paul rightly understood and insisted that Jesus **is before all things** and is Himself **the beginning**.

- ***In Him all things consist: Jesus is both the unifying principle and the personal sustainer of all creation.***

- ✓ ***Unifying Principle*** = the fundamental truth that serves as the foundation for a system of belief or behavior or for a chain of reasoning (right from the dictionary).
- ✓ ***Personal Sustainer*** = *The preserver necessary for the continuance of all things. And...He does it because He is interested in every believer (personal...you, me...WHAT A SAVIOR)!*
- **Head of the body, the church:** HE IS THE SOURCE OF HIS CHURCH.
MEANING: “Where it starts; Has paid a dowry (a payment) for His bride). Jesus Paid it all; all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain; HE WASHED IT WHITE AS SNOW! Do you want to take out a LIFETIME WARRANTY?
- **That in all things He may have the preeminence:**
 - ✓ The fact of surpassing all others; superiority:
 - ✓ The quality of being superior. It’s a type of high status or distinction for anything considered to be the best at something; The state of performing and providing acts and services with a “Spirit of Excellence.” In this case, eternal and consistent (without flaw).
 - ✓ This is a fitting summary of the verses found in Colossians 1:15-18.
- **For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell:**
 - ✓ **Fullness:** Just another way to say that Jesus is truly God. “A recognized term in theology denoting the totality of the Divine powers and attributes.” (Lightfoot)
 - ✓ **Dwell** = Used here in the sense of a *permanent dwelling* (not a temporary dwelling). Emphasizing the idea that Jesus was not *temporarily* God, but is *permanently* God.

The fullness is in Jesus Christ. Not in a church; not in a priesthood; not in a building; not in a sacrament; not in the saints; not in a method or a program, but in Jesus Christ Himself. It is in Him being the “distribution point” of the Good News (Gospel).

- **And by Him to reconcile all things to Himself:** Jesus’ atoning work is full and broad...for ALL who CHOOSE TO BE RECONCILED.
- **Through the blood of the cross:**
 - ✓ We don’t make our own peace with God, but Jesus made peace for us through His work on the cross.

- ✓ The **blood of the cross** speaks to us of the real, physical death of Jesus Christ in our place, on our behalf, before God.
- ✓ That literal death in our place, and the literal judgment He bore on our behalf, is what saves us.

Colossians 1:21-23, “And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.”

- **Who once were alienated:** **alienated** literally means “transferred to another owner.” This transfer of ownership, from God to Satan and self, affected us in both mind and behavior.

IMPORTANT INFO: *Belonging to the race of Adam, we are born **alienated** from God. As individuals, we each choose to accept and embrace that alienation with our **wicked works**.*

HOWEVER... Once were alienated: *This means that in Jesus we are no longer **alienated**. The difference between a believer and a non-believer isn’t merely forgiveness; there is a complete change of status.*

- **Yet now He has reconciled:**
 - ✓ God’s answer to the problem of **alienation** is *reconciliation*, initiated by His work on the cross.
 - ✓ In the work of reconciliation, God didn’t meet us halfway. God meets us all the way and invites us to accept it.
- **To present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight:** *This is the idea of presenting us **holy and blameless** before God as priests did when they inspected animals for potential sacrifices. **We are presented to God as a living sacrifice.***
- **If indeed you continue in the faith:**
 - ✓ *It is important for Christians to continue in godly conduct...but our salvation does not depend on our godly conduct.*
 - ✓ *Our conduct should give proof to us that we are saved!*
 - ✓ Paul’s main focus is continuing in the *truth of the gospel* (**continue in the faith... not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard**).