

Colossians - Chapter 1
“God's Glorious Plan to Reconcile All Things”
Colossians 1:18-20

Verse 18

1. So, Christ is the originator of a brand-new organism that never existed previously, called the church, the body of Christ. Paul refers to the body of Christ as “*one new man.*” **Ephesians 2:15**
2. Why is this? Why has Christ remained in heaven for nearly 2,000 years, forming this new creation called the body of Christ? Why didn't Christ simply return to earth, judge the ungodly, and establish His kingdom on earth as was prophesied?
3. The end of Colossians 1:18 reveals the reason, “...*that in all things he might have the preeminence.*”
4. Remember, the “*all things*” refers back to those things that God created on earth **and** in the heavens to glorify His Son. vs. 16
 - God already had a plan and a vessel through which He would reign on earth and glorify His Son. The plan is the prophetic plan that has been prophesied since the world began (Acts 3:21), and the vessel through which God would accomplish His plan was the nation of Israel. Exodus 19:5-6; Ezekiel 36:22-28; 37:21-28
 - He formed that nation in the earth for the express purpose of manifesting Christ's preeminence over the entire earth as King.
5. But what about the heavens? Christ must have preeminence in **all things**. So God has been forming a brand-new creation, an agency through which His Son will be glorified throughout the heavens, in the ages to come. That agency is the body of Christ. Ephesians 2:6-7
6. Unlike the prophetic plan for the earth, this agency called the body of Christ was kept secret since the world began, and revealed in due time through the apostle Paul. vs. 25-26
 - Unlike the prophetic plan (which will still be fulfilled), Christ is not revealing Himself as visible King over all the earth.
 - Today, Christ is the rejected Lord of glory, who is in heaven forming a new creation called the body of Christ.
7. What a privilege to be a part of the body of Christ! We have a part in God's great cosmic plan to reveal the preeminence of Christ throughout the heavenly places in the ages to come.
 - Jews and Gentiles (both given up because of sinful rebellion), hopelessly lost until the great mediator, Jesus Christ, gave Himself for us on the cross. Now those lost Jews and Gentiles are reconciled together in one body to form one new man—the church—the body of Christ.

Verse 19

1. What a statement Paul makes about Christ! Compare this with 2:9. The idea here is that Jesus Christ totally and perfectly reveals deity.

2. Everything finds its purpose and completion in Christ. Ephesians 1:10
3. The word "*fulness*" means that there is absolutely nothing lacking.
4. There were many false teachers who were trying to lead these Colossian believers away from a total trust in Christ. These false teachers tried to demean Christ and make Him out to be simply a created being.
5. Paul wrote Colossians to solidify these believers in their faith in Christ, and assure them that that they did not need anything that these false teachers were promoting. All fullness dwelt in Christ, and they were complete in Him! 2:8-10