

Colossians - Chapter 1
“Jesus Christ: Head of the Body”
Colossians 1:16-18

Verse 16

1. This verse is crystal clear. Jesus was not a created god or created being. He was the One **doing** the creating! He created “*all things*” in heaven and in earth. He created everything that is visible to man and everything that is invisible to man.
2. There was no universe or earth until Jesus commanded it to be. He spoke and it was done. Every form of matter and life owes its origin and existence to God the Son.
 - If you look up in the sky at night and wonder why a star is located where it is, remember, it is because that is exactly where Jesus wanted it to be. Why does a tree have a certain type of leaf? It is because that is what Jesus decided.
3. When Paul speaks of thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers, he is referring to governmental positions of rank and authority in the heavenlies within the angelic host. These are the invisible things that Paul is talking about. Jesus created every one.
 - They were created “*by him, and for him.*” In other words, they were created to glorify Jesus Christ.
 - God created the heaven and the earth and established a governmental structure to rule and reign over it, and it was designed to glorify Jesus Christ. He would be the center of it all.
4. Of course, many of these positions of rank and authority followed Satan in his rebellion against God. Ephesians 6:11-12
 - It is not just the earth that has been polluted by sin. The heavens were polluted first through the fall of Satan and his angels.
5. God has a plan that will enable “*all things*” in heaven and earth (those positions of rank and authority) to be reconciled back to their Creator, Jesus Christ. vs. 20
6. This is the overall theme of God's Word. You will hear some Bible teachers teach that the theme of God's Word is the redemption of mankind. This is not the main theme. It is a subplot to God's overall goal and theme.
7. The overall theme of the Bible is the authority of God's throne over the earth and the heavens. It is all about God reconciling the things in heaven and earth so that the things that He created will manifest the glory of Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 1:9-10

Verse 17

1. Christ is “*before all things.*” This again speaks of His superiority in rank and authority over the entire universe.
2. It is also by Christ that “*all things consist.*”
 - Everything was put together, and is held together, by Christ. Hebrews 1:3

- Why do the planets continue their orbits? Why does the earth continue on its orbit through space, staying the perfect distance from the sun (which is 93 million miles away)? Why does the moon travel at the perfect distance from the earth to preserve life here?
- What keeps it all together and functioning efficiently to allow things to continue?
- It is because of none other than our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Verse 18

1. Who is Jesus Christ in relation to us, in this dispensation of grace? We know that He revealed Himself to Israel as their long-awaited Messiah and King. He was the One who came from heaven to bring in Israel's kingdom, and sit on the Davidic throne.
2. But Israel rejected Jesus Christ. They cried, "*Away with him, crucify him.*"
3. Christ, the rejected King, ascended up to heaven. How is He revealing Himself today? This verse gives us great insight and wisdom. It is a doctrinal gold mine.

Christ is the head of the body, the church.

- The word "church" simply means "a called out assembly." We must look in the context to see who the called out assembly is.
- In this context, the word "church" is referring to Christ's body. Ephesians 1:22-23
- This is the called out heavenly assembly of all true believers (Ephesians 2:6) that have been placed in Christ by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:13
- We see local churches of professing believers. But the church—the body of Christ—is composed of all **true** believers that have been seated in heavenly places.
- The body of Christ is not found in one particular religious denomination or group. It is not found in one culture or nationality. The body of Christ is composed of every person who has been placed in Christ. Ephesians 5:30-32
- Christ is the head of this living body. The word "head" implies that Christ is the originator, the initiator, and the leader of this body. Christ gave Himself on the cross to make possible this heavenly body. Ephesians 2:16, 5:25

Christ is the beginning.

- This simply means that the church, the body of Christ, has its source or origin in Christ.
- Christ is the beginning. Without our Head, there would be no body. As Paul said, "*Christ is the firstfruits...*" Without Christ's death and resurrection, there would be no body because there would be no life source. There would be no Head.

Christ is the firstborn from the dead.

- How is Christ the originator and source of the church? By virtue of His resurrection from the dead. He is the firstborn from the dead.
- Remember, the term "firstborn" means "of first importance; of first rank." It doesn't refer to time, but to rank or status.

- Christ wasn't the first person to be raised from the dead (Lazarus, Jairus' daughter, etc.). But all those resurrected before Christ, died again. Death still reigned over their bodies.
- But, Christ raised from the dead never to die again. He conquered it with finality. Hebrews 7:25 proclaims that Christ is able to save people “*to the uttermost*” because “*he ever liveth.*”
- This is why Paul calls Christ “*the beginning.*” There could be no church (heavenly body) until Christ rose from the dead and ascended into the heavenlies. Ephesians 1:20-23