

Colossians - Chapter 1

The Invisible God Made Known

Colossians 1:15-16

Verse 15

- There are two key statements that Paul makes about Jesus Christ in this verse. Both are linked together to form one central thought.

Christ is the _____ of the invisible God.

1. The Bible declares that God is a Spirit (John 4:24) and that *"No man hath seen God at any time"* (John 1:18). But the eternal God was made _____ in Bethlehem (John 1:1, 14). Jesus, *"the only begotten Son... hath declared him"* (God the Father). John 1:18
2. So, when Paul says that Christ is the image of the invisible God, he doesn't mean that Christ is simply a _____ or picture of God, but rather Christ **is** God. He is of eternal and divine substance.
3. Christ is God in _____ form. Hebrews 1:3 declares that Christ is the express image of God's person.
 - *"Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?"*
John 14:9
 - *"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."* **1 Timothy 3:16**

Christ is the _____ of every creature.

1. The term *"firstborn"* has to do with Christ entering this _____ and taking on humanity.

2. In the Bible, the “*firstborn*” was the one who had preeminence and was the rightful _____ .
 - It literally means “of first importance; of first _____ .”
 - *“For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.” Hebrews 1:5-6*
3. Jesus became the _____ man to ever be born into this world of God's Spirit.
4. So, the terms “*firstborn*,” or “*firstbegotten*” in no way deny the eternality of Christ or His deity. They have to do with the eternal Son being born into this world, and having _____ place and preeminence over anybody else.
 - *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth... No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.” John 1:1, 14, 18*
5. Christ is the physical manifestation of God (image), born into this world, and therefore He is the Head (firstborn) of all creation and preeminent in _____ things.

Verse 16

1. Jesus was not a created god or created being. He was the One _____ the creating! He created “*all things*” in heaven and in earth.
2. Every form of matter and life owes its _____ and existence to God the Son.