

August 25, 2019

Christ Exalted
Colossians 1:15-20
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Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

—Colossians 1:16

This week we continue in chapter one of Colossians. This section of verse 15-20 is one of the most significant sections of Scripture when it comes to the person of Christ. The truth that we see in this section reinforces our understanding that Jesus is fully God. He is referred to as the creator of all things and that all things were created for Him. But the passage does not stop there. It also describes how He is currently holding all things together. In other words, if He pulled back His hand the universe would spiral out of existence. Then the section closes with reminding us that He is the Savior, He has reconciled all things to Himself. Join us this week as we talk about how Christ has created all things, sustains all things, and restores all things.



Colossians 1:15-20 (NASB)

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.¹⁶ For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions 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 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so

that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.¹⁹ For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

o EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.

1. Who is involved in the text? Author, audience, main characters.
2. Where and when is this taking place? Geography and timeline.
3. What actions are carried out or commanded? Look for the verbs.
4. Is there anything repeated?
5. What is emphasized?
6. Is there anything in these passages that is related to other areas of scripture?
7. Are there things to be noted that are alike or unlike such as similes and metaphors?

2 EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)
What does God MEAN?

8. What does it mean that Jesus is the firstborn of all creation? Does He have a beginning?

9. What has Christ created? List the categories of His creation that are listed.

10. What does it mean that Jesus is firstborn from the dead?

11. Why did Christ create all things?

12. What does this passage say Christ is currently doing in regard to creation?

13. In what way is Christ head of the church? How does this impact us?

③ EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)
Why does this MATTER to me?

14. Why is it important to us that God is still active in creation?

15. Why is it important that Christ is the fullness of God?

16. How are we reconciled and given peace with God?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

Sermon Notes