

# The Incomparable Christ (Colossians 1:15-23)

Ever watch a potter center a lump of clay on the potter's wheel? It's crucial for the clay to be centered or the entire vessel will be lopsided or fall apart. In one of the most beautiful poems written about Jesus, Colossians 1:15-23 has a centering effect on all who read it.

We're all tempted to try and earn, add to or pursue something beyond Jesus. What happens when we begin to believe Jesus isn't enough? The temptation is to look to other things to satisfy. Jesus' supremacy and sufficiency are the best protection against this error and the greatest remedy to our seemingly endless search for meaning and hope.

## 1. Jesus is (Colossians 1:15-20)

**Remember who Jesus is and never move away from it**

**Jesus is supreme over all creation** (Colossians 1:15-17)

JESUS IS the image of the invisible God - 2 Corinthians 4:6; Hebrews 1:3

JESUS IS *the firstborn over all creation* - Psalm 89:27; Colossians 2:9

JESUS IS Creator of ALL things - Genesis 1:1 and John 1:3; Revelation 22:13; Hebrews 2:10

JESUS IS eternal

JESUS holds all things together

**Jesus is supreme over NEW creation** (Colossians 1:18-20) = 2 Corinthians 5:17

JESUS IS the Head of the Church

JESUS IS the beginning and *the firstborn from among the dead*

JESUS IS the place of God's presence - John 1:14

JESUS IS the place of reconciliation

## 2. Jesus has (Colossians 1:21-23)

**Recognize what God has done for you in Christ and never move away from it**

*"Alienated"* = involves isolation, loneliness, a deep sense of not belonging, separation.

His supremacy and sufficiency is  
the best protection against error and  
the greatest remedy to our brokenness.

**Colossians 1:22** *"holy in his sight"* and *"without blemish* (a sacrificial term) *and free from accusation"*

## 3. You must (Colossians 1:23)

**V23** *"continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel."*

This gets to the heart of the letter.

### QUESTIONS

1. The Colossians were tempted to move away from Jesus and devalue him. How does Paul care for and protect the Colossians?
2. What does Colossians 1:15-23 (which is actually a poem) say about Jesus? Does anything stand out to you as new or special? Anything about his description surprise you? \*Consider Jesus' supremacy over all creation (VV15-17) and over NEW creation? (VV18-20)
3. In what ways do we try to earn, add to or pursue things outside of God's provision in Jesus? What's the solution to this empty pursuit?
4. We might think, "OK this is an amazing poem but what's in it for me?" Then we read VV21-23! How do you respond to the idea that you are in God's presence, "holy, blameless and without accusation"?
5. What are one or two ways in which your life is different since you were changed from being alienated from God to being reconciled through Christ's death?
6. If you don't feel you have experienced this reconciliation, what hope do you find in verses 21-23?
7. Paul tells the Colossians 1:23 *"continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel."* How do we follow this instruction? What will it require?