

Part 6 – The Book of Colossians

Colossians 1:17-20

Jesus Christ Is Pre-eminent in All Things

Colossians 1:8 and he also informed **us** of your love in the Spirit.

Colossians 1:12-13 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified **us** to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

13 For He rescued **us** from the domain of darkness, and transferred **us** to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

Mark 9:33-35 They came to Capernaum; and when He was in the house, He began to question them, "What were you discussing on the way?"

34 But they kept silent, for on the way they had discussed with one another which of them was the greatest. 35 Sitting down, He called the twelve and *said to them, "If anyone wants to be first, **he shall be last of all and servant of all.**"

Colossians 1:23 IF (*First class conditional - III - 4. Uncertain by reason of man's actions and choices*) indeed **you** continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that **you** have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister

One God Translation:

*15 He is the visible image of the invisible God, the **firstborn** over all creation, 16 because in him in intention everything was originally created by God in heaven and on earth — the visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions, rulers or authorities — all these things are now created by God through him and for him. 17 He is superior to all things and in him everything coheres. 18 He is also the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the **firstborn** from the dead, so that he himself might be promoted to become first in everything.*

Now we saw the term "firstborn" in verse 15 & 18 last week. So lets start in verse 15 & drop down to verse 18, we can do this because we are not in a race, even though I did say "time is of the essence", what is even more of an essence than time, is getting the correct understanding of what we are reading.

Not much use if we get through this whole book in record time and at the end of it have a completely wrong understanding of what this Great Apostle is

writing about and what The Sovereign God wants communicated to us His people.

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, **the firstborn of all creation.**

Colossians 1:18 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.

A Barnes

"The first-born of every creature - Among all the creatures of God, or over all his creation, occupying the rank and pro-eminence of the first-born. The first-born, or the oldest son, among the Hebrews as elsewhere, had special privileges. He was entitled to a double portion of the inheritance. It has been, also, and especially in oriental countries, a common thing for the oldest son to succeed to the estate and the title of his father. In early times, the first-born son was the officiating priest in the family, in the absence or on the death of the father. There can be no doubt that the apostle here has reference to the usual distinctions and honors conferred on the first-born, and means to say that, among all the creatures of God, Christ occupied a pre-eminence similar to that. He does not say that, in all respects, he resembled the first-born in a family; nor

does he say that he himself was a creature, for the point of his comparison does not turn on these things, and what he proceeds to affirm respecting him is inconsistent with the idea of his being a created being himself.

He that "created all things that are in heaven and that are in earth," was not himself created. That the apostle did not mean to represent him as a creature, is also manifest from the reason which he assigns why he is called the first-born. "He is the image of God, and the first-born of every creature, for - ὅτι ἡ ὅτι ἡ - by him were all things created." That is, he sustains the elevated rank of the first-born, or a high eminence over the creation, because by him "all things were created in heaven and in earth." The language used here, also, does not fairly imply that he was a creature, or that he was in nature and rank one of those in relation to whom it is said he was the first-born. It is true that the word "first-born" - πρωτότοκος prōtotokos - properly means the first-born child of a father or mother, [Matthew 1:25](#); [Luke 2:7](#); or the first-born of animals. But two things are also to be remarked in regard to the use of the word:

It is used to denote one who is chief, or who is highly distinguished and pre-eminent. Thus, it is employed in [Romans 8:29](#), "That he might be the first-born among many brethren." So, in [Colossians 1:18](#), it is said that he was "the first-born from the dead;" not that he was literally the first that was raised from the dead, which was not the fact, but that he might be pre-eminent among those that are raised; compare [Exodus 4:22](#). The meaning, then, is, that Christ

sustains the most exalted rank in the universe; he is pre-eminent above all others; he is at the head of all things. The expression does not mean that he was "begotten before all creatures," as it is often explained, but refers to the simple fact that he sustains the highest rank over the creation. He is the Son of God. He is the heir of all things. All other creatures are also the "offspring of God;" but he is exalted as the Son of God above all.

A Barnes

Mark 12:28-31 One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" 29 Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'Hear, O Israel! **The Lord our God is one Lord;** 30 and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Colossians 1:16 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,**

An antecedent is a word that a pronoun refers to or replaces. Where there's a pronoun, there's an antecedent. The word antecedent means "earlier." In English grammar, the definition of antecedent is a phrase, word, or clause indicated by a pronoun. If there's a pronoun in a standalone sentence, you'll need to include an antecedent with it.

Lesson over:

20 and **through Him** (*antecedent is the son in v:13*) to reconcile **all things to (for) Himself** (*antededent is God*), **having made peace** through the blood of His cross; **through Him** (*antecedent is the son in v:13*), I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.