



TITLE:
Christ's Preeminence

TEXT:
Colossians 1:12-18

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: [13] Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: [14] In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: [15] Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: [16] For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: [17] And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. [18] And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

INTRODUCTION:

- Paul was giving thanks to God for their salvation.
- He described salvation as:
 - Being made meet (to qualify) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.
 - Being delivered (to rescue) from the power (influence) of darkness.
 - *Ephesians 2:1-3 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; [2] Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: [3] Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*
 - Being translated (to transfer) into the kingdom (spiritual kingdom; reign) of Jesus Christ.

v.14

- In Christ, we have redemption
 - Redemption means bought and released.
 - The act of buying a slave from the market in order to give him freedom.
- The price of redemption is the blood of Jesus Christ.
 - *1 Peter 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; [19] But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*
- In Christ, we have the forgiveness of sins
 - God can forgive man's sins only because Jesus has paid the penalty for them.

v.15

- Christ is the image of the invisible God.
 - See John 14:7-9
- Christ is the firstborn (highest rank) of every creature.
 - Christ is exalted as the Son of God above all.
 - The reasons are given in v.16-17.

v.16

- By Christ, all things were created.
 - Christ is the Creator of all things.
 - In heaven and in earth
 - Visible or invisible (thrones, dominions, principalities or powers)
 - God used the Roman Empire, British Empire, and America to proclaim the gospel unto the uttermost part of the earth.
- All things were created for Christ's glory.

v.17

- Christ is before (superior above) all things.
- By Him, all things consist (to set together, to arrange).

v.18

- Christ is the head of the church.
- He is the beginning (commencement or chief), the first-born from the dead.
 - *1 Corinthians 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.*
- In all things, he might have the preeminence (might be first).
 - All things: Universe, Things in Heaven and Earth, Angels, Government Bodies, Church, Brethren
 - The world doesn't see it right now, but they will soon see it literally.