

## The Supremacy of Christ in the Work of New Creation – Colossians 1:15-20

-Errors in the church at Colossae (philosophy (2:8), Jewish legalism (2:16), worship of supernatural powers (2:18), asceticism (2:18, 21))

-A form of Gnosticism

-Paul's remedy: Christ

### I. Christ's Supremacy in the Original Creation (vs. 15-17)

-Christ is the image of the invisible God (v. 15a; 2 Cor. 4:4). He is the incarnate revelation of the invisible God.

-Christ is the firstborn of the original creation (v. 15b). He is first in rank and preeminence (Ex. 4:22; Ps. 89:27; Rom. 8:29).

-Christ is the Author, Agent, and Goal of the original creation (v. 16).

-Christ predates and sustains the original creation (v. 17; John 1:1, 14, 15; Gal 4:4; Heb. 1:3).

### II. Christ's Supremacy in the New Creation (vs. 18-20)

-New Creation: the original creation reclaimed and restored; the work of new creation is activity of the last Adam in reclaiming and restoring the original creation ruined by the first Adam.

-Christ's priority in, and kingship over, the new creation is rooted in His resurrection from the dead (v. 18).

-Christ's priority in, and kingship over, the new creation is rooted in the full expression of deity in Him (v. 19).

-Christ's priority in, and kingship over, the new creation is rooted in His work of cosmic redemption (v. 20).

### Parallels

1) As Christ was already the image of the invisible God at the inception of the original creation (v. 15), so the fullness of deity dwells in Him in the work of new creation (v. 19).

2) As Christ was the firstborn of the original creation (v. 15), so He is the firstborn of the new creation through His resurrection from the dead (v. 18).

3) As Christ existed before all things in the original creation (v. 17), so He became the head and beginning so that He will come to have first place in the new creation (v. 18).

4) As Christ made all things in the heavens and on earth in the original creation (v. 16), so He will reconcile all things in the heavens and on earth in the new creation (v. 20).

### Practical Lessons

1) Jesus is God.

2) The resurrection of Christ launches the work of new creation.

3) See the glory of Christ.