

## The Supremacy of Christ

<sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

<sup>21</sup>Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. <sup>22</sup>But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— <sup>23</sup>if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

**Image:** This word is not one to be taken lightly

-in Jewish law it was believed that the making of an image was breaking the second commandment

-**image:** By Paul stating that Jesus is the image of the invisible God is to equate him with God directly for in Christ we see the essence of the Almighty God

-firstborn: means source or preeminent in rank of all creation it does not refer to a literal birth

-**all things:** all, any, every and whole, all things exist, because he exists, they live because he lives, and under God's rule because he rules them

-**supremacy:** preeminate, denotes privilege : to take first place

-Jesus Christ binds his own to himself for eternity and is their surety for salvation, if they remain in him. The man Jesus of Nazareth is the first to experience resurrection and the one who leads us into life. In the man Christ Jesus, the first born, God has brought divine power to its climax and has given a share in this to the church

**fullness:** is related to Christ's death and resurrection. For this reason believers also have this fullness in Christ. They are reconciled renewed and triumphant. This answers the Colossian heresy that taught that one could attain fullness with the deity through some sort of angelic hierarchy

alienated: strangers, excluded, separated,

minds: imagination, understanding, intellect, judgment, the spiritual consciousness the disposition of faith it can be sincere but also hostile

**if:** if indeed, seeing that, unless