

Jesus Christ is Number One!
(Colossians 1:15-19)

- I. INTRODUCTION
- II. THEIR PRAYERS FOR THE COLOSSIANS (Col. 1:3-14)
- III. THE PREEMMINCE OF CHRIST (Col. 1:15-19)

- What does the word preeminence mean?

- What was the purpose of this letter?

- What is Gnosticism?
 - Gnosticism teaches that matter is _____ and spirit is _____ (Gen. 1).
 - Because of this, Gnostics believe that Christ could not be _____ and come in the _____ (John 1:1-5, 10-18; 1 John 1:1-4; 4:2-3).
 - They taught that you needed _____ than Christ such as higher knowledge, ascetism, worshipping of angels, and legalism.
 - This false teaching results in the denial of Christ's _____ on the cross and a reduction of Christ to a _____ being (1 Cor. 15:12-18).

- Why is this important?

A. The Preeminence of Christ displayed in His PERSON (Col. 1:15a).

1. God is _____ (Jn. 1:18a; 1 Tim. 1:17; Ex. 33:20).
2. Jesus Christ is the exact _____ and _____ of God to mankind. (Jn. 1:18b; 14:7-9; Heb. 1:3)
 - What do we need to know about the word image?

 - How does Jesus represent God?

- Aren't we created in the image of God also?

B. The Preeminence of Christ Displayed in His Creation (Col. 1:15b-17).

1. Jesus is _____ which means that He is first in _____ and first in _____ over all creation. (Col. 1:15b; Ps. 89:27; Ex. 4:22).

- Does this mean that Christ was created?

- What does this mean?

2. Jesus created _____ in both heaven and earth. (Col. 1:16)

- Was Satan created by Christ?
- Was sin created by Christ?
- Was sickness and death created by Christ?

3. Christ existed _____ all things...(Col. 1:17a)

- What does this tell us?

4. ...and Jesus _____ all things together (Col. 1:17b)

- Why is this important?

Takeaway

- Jesus Christ is _____, first in rank, before all things, He created all things, and holds together all things.