

For April 23, 2000. Christ is SUPREME - Colossians. Message #3 Crown Him Lord! (Col. 1:15-23)

As you prepare to celebrate Easter, allow this passage to move you to praise Christ as Lord of ALL!

1. Recall your first celebration of Easter when the fact of Christ's resurrection and victory over death truly gripped your heart. What was it like for you to worship that Sunday?

2. Christ is . . . Verses 15-20 are written in the poetic rhythm of a hymn. Fill out the following chart to gain an appreciation for what is being revealed about Christ in the different stanzas.

A. (vs. 15-16) **HE IS** the \_\_\_\_\_ of the invisible God, the \_\_\_\_\_ over all creation.

For **BY HIM** \_\_\_\_\_ were created, things in heaven and on earth . . .

All things were created **BY HIM** and **FOR HIM**.

B. (vs. 17) **HE IS** before \_\_\_\_\_, and

**IN HIM** \_\_\_\_\_ hold together.

B'. (vs.18a) **HE IS** the \_\_\_\_\_, the church

A' (vs. 18b-20) **HE IS** the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ from among the dead.

SO THAT IN EVERYTHING **HE** MIGHT HAVE THE SUPREMECY.

For God was pleased to have \_\_\_\_\_ dwell **IN HIM**

And **THROUGH HIM** to reconcile to himself \_\_\_\_\_, whether things . . .

**BY MAKING PEACE THROUGH HIS BLOOD, SHED ON THE CROSS.**

3. Identify one of the words or phrases that Paul uses to describe Christ in the hymn (vs. 15-20). What implications would Paul have wanted the Colossians to realize coming from that understanding of the person of Christ? What implications do you see for your life?

4. In verses 21-23, Paul shows how the new lives of the Colossians differ radically from their old ones.

A. What characterized their "old" life? How did they relate to God then?

B. What did God do that changed everything?

C. What is God's ultimate goal for the Colossians (and for us)?

D. What does Paul call the Colossians (and us) to do to move toward that goal?

5. Paul calls himself, "A servant of ...(the gospel)" in vs. 23. In what ways can you be such a servant?