

Jesus Christ, The Number 1 Person In The Universe!

Study 3, Colossians 1:15-23

WHY IS JESUS SO IMPORTANT?

A. BEING. Because He is the Visible Image of the Invisible God (1:15).

1. The word image is a translation of the word *eikon*, from which we get our English word icon. What is the purpose of an icon on a computer screen? Following are two other uses of the same word in the New Testament (my emphasis):
 - a. Luke 20:24. "Show Me a denarius. Whose **likeness** and inscription does it have?" They said, "Caesar's."
 - b. Romans 8:29. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the **image** of His Son,
2. In what way is Jesus the ICON of God? (Understand that because Jesus is called God's ICON does not mean he's not real. He is real, and he has just as much "Godness" as God does.)
 - a. John 14:9
 - b. John 1:18
3. Another way of asking the same question: What is there about God that makes it hard for us to understand, but that Jesus explains?

B. ACTIVITY. Because He is the Firstborn over all Creation. 1:15b-17

1. Why, according to 1:16, is Jesus the firstborn over all creation? (First-born does not mean that Jesus was the first of the children born to God. It means "first in importance." In many cultures, the first-born male son is the leading child in the family.)
 - a. What are the two sets of opposites which Jesus created (1:16)?
 - b. What are the four powers listed in 1:16? (These probably refer to supernatural powers of all sorts, including various levels of angels, all of whom Christ created.)
 - c. Who is the architect of creation?
 - d. For whose benefit did Jesus create everything?

2. Not only is Jesus the Creator of the Universe – what else is he (1:17)?

C. POSITION. Because He is the Head of the Church. 1:18a

1. Why is Jesus called “the Head of the Church?”
2. What is Jesus’ body?
3. What is the Church?

D. VICTORY. Because He is the First-Born from the Dead. 1:18b

1. In what way is Jesus the beginning, the first-born from the dead?

E. PRIORITY. Because He will have First Place in Everything. 1:18c

1. What is the significance of this?

F. COMPLETENESS. Because All the Fullness Dwells in Jesus. 1:19

1. What is the significance of this (see 2:9)?

G. RECONCILIATION. Because Jesus Will Bring All Things into Peace with God. 1:20-23.

1. What is God’s plan through Jesus (1:20)?
2. How did Jesus make peace (1:20)?
3. Where will the peace extend (1:20)?
4. What were th Colossians like before they became Christians (1:21)?
5. How did Jesus reconcile them (1:22a)?
6. Why did Jesus reconcile them? (What was his goal?) (1:22b).
7. What condition do they need to meet (1:23)? (By the way, Paul assumes they will meet this condition. The word *if* here really means *since*.)

H. QUESTIONS

1. Have you been reconciled to God through Jesus (1:20, 22)?
2. Or, are you alienated from Him, hostile in your mind toward him, and participating in evil deeds (1:21)?
3. If you have answered YES to Question 1 and NO to Question 2, are you continuing in the faith firmly established (1:23)? Are you sure you are not moving away from the hope of the gospel (Good News) (1:23)?

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