

SOLID-

Acknowledging Jesus as Lord

What is Jesus really like? Confusion about the identity and character of Jesus was also a problem in the first century. From both inside and outside the church, distortions of the truth about Jesus and the Christian life had arisen. Against this background Paul writes to the Christians at Colossae, reminding them of who it is they follow as Lord.

- How do you think your non-Christian friends view Jesus?

Colossians 1 : 15-23

- What characteristics of Jesus Christ impress you in this passage?
- Verse 15 sums up Christ as the visible expression of the invisible God. What are some of the difficulties we have in trying to know and relate to an invisible God?
- Christ is also “the firstborn” which means the one who is first (or Lord) over all creation (v.15). In what ways are His lordship and supremacy indicated in verses 16-20?
- According to verse 16, what is the purpose of all created things: nature, people, “rulers” and “authorities”?
- How should this affect our attitude toward life including our possessions, relationships and goals?
- Christ is also “the head of the body, the church” (v.18). How can Christ’s authority make a visible difference in your church or fellowship group?

- How does verse 20 help us to understand God's overall plan and goal for the universe?
- According to verses 21-22, what has God done to enable us to participate in his plan?
- What kind of response does He expect from us (v.23)?
- Verse 18 summarises the overall thrust of this passage: "So that in everything He might have the supremacy." In what areas does Jesus not yet have first place in your life?
- What steps can you take to submit these areas to His Lordship?
- How can this passage encourage you to "continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the Gospel" (v. 23)?

Summary:

If Christ is not supreme then the Christian faith is meaningless and we are without hope. Understanding the significance of the person and work of Christ (in other words His Deity, and what He did for us on the cross) is one of the central truths of our faith.

When we know Christ as our Saviour we have everything we need for salvation. He was both fully God and fully human. He created all things for Himself and has supremacy over all creation!

Verse to remember:

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form. ~ Colossians 2:9