

The Supremacy of Christ
Jesus - The Living Gospel
Colossians 1:15-23

Introduction

This letter to the Colossians is from Paul the Apostle, one of the early Christian movement leaders. He writes to a group of believers in Colosse, a small town in South-Western Turkey.

1. Paul wrote this letter with a clear _____: to re-focus their attention on what he calls "the gospel."
2. The term "gospel" was a technical term used in the Roman Empire to announce or proclaim news about _____.
3. At the time of writing this letter, Paul was in prison in _____.
4. Paul says that the gospel of Jesus Christ announces a far greater _____ than Caesar and his kingdom.
5. The Christian "gospel" is the good news that Jesus Christ has come to bring salvation and establish an _____ kingdom.
6. False teachers were interjecting _____ into the Christian teachings.
7. Gnosticism advocates a dualism regarding spirit and _____.
8. Gnostics also claim to possess an elevated knowledge, a "higher _____" known only to the truly spiritual.
9. Gnostics see themselves as a privileged class _____ above the simple-minded.
10. Paul rejects this and argues that genuine spiritual development depends on growing in understanding and appreciation of the _____.

11. Paul reminds the Colossians that Jesus is the _____ Gospel.
12. But in verses 15-20, Paul shares some profound truth, declaring the absolute _____ of Jesus.

The Preeminence of Christ

13. Paul says Jesus is absolutely a _____ being in every way.
14. Notice that in these five verses, Paul uses the word "_____" seven times and insists that Jesus is supreme in everything.

I. Jesus is the Perfect Revelation of God

15. The first thing Paul says is that Jesus is the unique and perfect _____ of God.
16. Jesus is the human _____ of God.
17. All of the _____ of God dwells in him alone.
18. Jesus is the unique Messiah sent by the Godhead to reveal God's _____ to all of humanity.
19. John begins his gospel, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word _____ God."
20. Jesus is all that is _____ and all that we can understand about God.

II. Jesus is the Absolute Owner of the Universe

21. Jesus is the absolute _____ of the entire Universe.
22. "First-born" does not mean that Jesus was the first created being; it means that Jesus is the rightful _____ and owner of everything.

Paul offers these reasons why:

1. Jesus created the Universe (everything material – including humans and angels).
2. The Universe is made for Jesus.
3. He predates the Universe.
4. Jesus holds the Universe _____ (both physically and metaphysically).

Because of Jesus, the material world makes _____.

III. Jesus is the Redeemer of Our Broken Universe

23. Jesus is the sole _____ of our broken world.

24. God's creation is _____! Our world is broken!
We are broken!

25. Sin corrupts us and causes us to _____ God.

26. The purpose of Christ's coming is to rescue and mend His _____.

27. Jesus is not one of many ways to salvation; he is the only _____.

28. Religion enslaves people; Jesus _____ them.

29. It took the Cross to defeat sin and death, and it took the _____ to begin creation's healing and restoration.

30. The value of faith is that it enables you to accept the reality of something that is real even though you can't _____ it.

31. Faith enables you to _____ what only Jesus can provide and promises to you.

32. Paul says Jesus is absolutely _____.

33. Who Jesus is, is vitally important because who you _____ he is, determines what you believe he can provide for you.

34. The word the bible uses to describe Christ's provision is the word _____.

Conclusion

35. First, Paul talks about _____ with God.

36. The second aspect of salvation is the _____ work of Christ in our lives.

Jesus reconciles us to God so that He can present us "holy and blameless and beyond reproach." Jesus wants to forgive you of sin's penalty, but he also wants to heal you from sin's corrupting and destructive power. He wants to restore your life from the inside out so that you become more and more like the person God created you to be.

ANSWERS

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|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Purpose | 20. Knowable |
| 2. Caesar | 21. Owner |
| 3. Rome | 22. Heir |
| 4. Ruler | 23. Redeemer |
| 5. Eternal | 24. Broken |
| 6. Gnosticism | 25. Oppose |
| 7. Matter | 26. Creation |
| 8. Truth | 27. Savior |
| 9. Elevated | 28. Saves |
| 10. Gospel | 29. Resurrection |
| 11. Living | 30. See |
| 12. Preeminence | 31. Receive |
| 13. Supreme | 32. Supreme |
| 14. All | 33. Believe |
| 15. Revelation | 34. Salvation |
| 16. Image | 35. Reconciliation |
| 17. Fullness | 36. transforming |
| 18. Plan | |
| 19. Was | |