

- ❖ Reason 1: The Bible is the Inspired Word of God.
- ❖ Reason 2: The Bible is profitable for teaching, reproof, correcting, and training believers.
- ❖ Reason 3: The Bible will prepare me to be adequately equipped for any good work (2 Timothy 3:16).
- ❖ Reason 4: The Bible is more reliable than human experience (2 Peter 1:16).
- ❖ Reason 5: The Bible produces spiritual birth (1 Peter 1:23).
- ❖ Reason 6: The Bible produces spiritual growth (1 Peter 2:2).

- **Verses 15-16 share the preeminence of Christ in creation.**
- **Verses 17-20 share the preeminence of Christ in the Church.**
- **Verses 21-23 share the preeminence of Christ in you.**

I. The Declaration of Christ's Preeminence over the church.

A. Illustration - Christ is the Head.

B. Resurrection - Christ is the Heart.

¹⁸ He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,

II. The Reason Christ has Preeminence over the church.

so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

III. The Purpose Christ has preeminence over the church.

¹⁹ For it was the *Father's* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, ²⁰ and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, *I say*, whether things on earth or things in heaven. (Col. 1:18-20 NAU)