

Colossians 1:15–18

“The Glorious God Is the One Who Gave Himself”

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**Who is the “Son of His love” in Whom we have redemption?** Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. *Colossians 1:15–18* prepares us for the second serial reading in Morning Public Worship on the coming Lord’s Day. In these four verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that Jesus is the Lord: the uncreated Creator of all things, Sustainer of all things, Ruler over all things... for Whom they all exist, and Who is glorified over them all.

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### Thursday, September 30, 2021 • Read Colossians 1:15–18

Questions from the Scripture text: Of what is Christ the image (v15a)? What else is He, and over what (v15b)? How many things were created by Him (v16a)? Where? What kinds of things (v16b)? In addition to being created by Him, how were they created (v16c)? For Whom were they created? How else does Jesus relate to all things (v17a)? And how else (v17b)? What relation does He have to the church (v18a)? What, therefore, is the church called? In what two ways is He the head (v18b)? Between His relationship to the church and all created things, what is the result for Him (v18c)?

The glory of being redeemed in the Son is the truth about Who the Son is. He is not merely the “son of God” in the way that Adam is described to be in Luke 3:38, because He is not “created in the image of God” the way Adam is in Genesis 1:27.

No, the Son is Himself the image of the invisible God, God’s display of Himself (v15a). In fact, He is the One Who created all things (v16a)—not only on earth but in heaven, not only visible but invisible, at every level of authority and power (v16b–c)! Indeed the apostle uses the language from Genesis 1 to declare the Son as the One through Whom Adam had to be created in order to be created in the image of God.

The Holy Spirit is saying the same thing in vv15–17 as in John 1:1–4. The Son, the Word, is the uncreated Creator, God’s own display of Himself, by Whom and for Whom all creatures exist.

“He is the image of the invisible God” (Col 1:15)

“And the Word was God” (Jn 1:1)

“the Firstborn over all creation, for by Him all things were created” (Col 1:15–16)

“without Him nothing was made that was made” (Jn 1:3)

“that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities of powers” (Col 1:16)

“without Him nothing was made that was made” (Jn 1:3)

“All things were created through Him” (Col 1:16)

“All things were made through Him” (Jn 1:3)

“And He is before all things” (Col 1:17)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God” (Jn 1:1)

“and in Him all things consist” (Col 1:17)

“In Him was life” (Jn 1:4)

This is the One who has fully paid for the church by dying for her (v14). So, He is her head, as her Husband, and considers her to be His own body (v18a), for whom He paid the redemption price of Himself. In fact, this redemption cost Him both incarnation and death, but by going through death for His church, He became the firstborn from among the dead (v18b). Where the Head has gone, His body will follow.

How glorious to have the Creator-Lord as our Kinsman-Redeemer! He is God the Word (Jn 1:1–18) and God the Son (Col 1:15–17), but He became a Man as well to offer Himself to die as the bride price for us sinners who needed forgiveness!!

The upshot of all this is that the Son’s glory in the church is the pinnacle of His glory in all creation and all authority. All those other things, even the highest and greatest of them, glorify Him because He created them (v16). But the church brings Him glory as His purchased bride, whom He leads out of death and into resurrection life. “That in all things He may have the preeminence” (v18c).

What effect does it have upon your heart, as a believer, to know that God the Son Himself gave Himself to purchase you as part of His bride? When you read that this was all done so that He would have the first place, how does this shape your aim in your day to day living? In what does it teach you to delight? What can take away this joy?

*Sample prayer: O Jesus, our Creator, all things are from You, and through You, and to You. To You be the glory forever and ever, AMEN! Though You are God, You became a man to die for us. Forgive us for how forgetful we are of your love. And forgive us for how we keep losing sight of Your glory as the aim of our life and salvation. Grant that we would live our whole lives as a knowing of Your love for us and a loving of You and Your glory, which we ask in Your Name, AMEN!*

Suggested songs: ARP110B “The LORD Has Spoken to My Lord” or TPH288 “We Come, O Christ, to You”

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**(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)**

Colossians 1 versus 15 through 18. These are God's words. He is the image of the invisible. God. The firstborn over all creation. For, by him, all things were created that are in heaven. And that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones, or dominions, or principalities or powers.

All things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things. And in him all things consist and he is the head of the body. The church, who is the beginning, the first born from the dead that in all things, he may have the preeminence

So far the reading of God's inspired and inerrant art. Now, not many of you or maybe you have but not many other people because I haven't really started using them for the purpose that I intended have seen the new hopewell business card, which on it has the line where Christ has the first place in all things.

Now, that's true at Hopewell. But what this passage teaches us is that's true. Everywhere from the beginning of time. From all eternity unto everlasting in heaven and on earth everywhere, this is telling us the amazing truth about who it is. If you look back at verse 14 in whom, we have our redemption through his blood and the through his blood, I don't think is original.

That's not a majority text reading. That's a Texas receptive reading, but in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Now, it's true that it's through his blood, that is how the redemption happened. Just like we heard from first Peter 2 on the Lord's day morning, that he bore our sins in his body on the tree.

And Hebrews says that without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins or remission of sins. And so the amazing thing is who is the one who bled and died for us, and that is God himself. There's a distinction here made between him and Adam. First of all, in verse 15, Adam was made in the image of God, Jesus is the image of the invisible.

God. Adam was the first born of humanity, who came at the end of creation, Jesus is the firstborn over all creation. Meaning not that he was born but that he is the rightful air and Lord over all of the creation for 16 tells us, not only that whole things were created through him and for him at the end of the verse, but all things were created by him.

So he made all things through himself for himself. Now, there's this lie that people say that there's no such thing as a trinity, and that the one that Jesus calls father is Yahweh, but Jesus isn't Yahweh and the spirit isn't Yahweh. If that were true, if Jesus was less than God and he made all things through himself and for himself, he would not be good.

He would be a devil. All creatures. Must do all things for God's glory, but we know that the one who made all things and himself as therefore unmade, right? Like John tells us and John chapter 1, all things were created through him and without him, nothing was created, that was created.

So he's uncreated. Same thing here by him, all things were created through him. And for him, he is the living God, and look, where he made everything created things that are in heaven, and that are on earth. This is not only the heavens that we know of, or that we are able to see rather.

So, with the sun and the moon and the stars in them. But even the creation of creatures that we don't know about their creation, we don't know, from Genesis chapter 1 about the creation of the angels. That's not told to us, but we do know from Colossians chapter 1 who made them.

And that is the one who became a man, so that his perfect obedience could be counted for us so that his atoning blood could be shed for us on the cross and take away all of our sins. He has the living God. There is no authority, no throne or dominion or principality or power.

Except that he made it. He is before all things. This is one of the ways that God is described from everlasting, to everlasting in the scriptures, one of the ways that you always described and in him all things consist. And so when Jesus for instance and in the gospel of John says before Abraham was I am he's claiming to be Jehovah this.

One of the reasons why they stoned him or tried to at that point. And here Colossians is saying Jesus is Jehovah, Jesus's. Yahweh. Now, the amazing thing isn't is not only. Did he take a body that he could shed blood in order to die for us in that body?

But he is also taken the church as his very own body. Now what is it called? When a man takes a woman to be as his very own body and cares for her as himself. That's marriage. Isn't it? And someone says

and he is the head of the body, the church, it is talking about something amazing, not only that Jesus came down and humiliated himself to become a creature so that he could bleed and die for us, but that he raises us up.

He raises the church as a whole and us as members of it. As part of it, he raises the church as a whole up and gives the church his own. Glory joins the church to himself forever and ever and loves her as himself. There's nothing else in the creation that God loves as himself.

That would be a blasphemy. That would be a wickedness. Do you see what a glorious thing God has done for his church that he has taken her as his bride? So with the song of Solomon is all about the great king and the unworthy girl who's lowest of the totem pole, even in her own family and she is raised up until she is a queen who's character and honor and dignity.

Finally, at last by the king's patient labors for her, her character and dignity and glory and honor are a reflection of a refraction of a display of his own. Well, that's what the Lord has done for his church. He brought himself down and he did rise again. He has been exalted, but he did say that he could lift us up.

Not only did he go down to die, but he has risen again from the dead. And we are guaranteed. Our resurrection by his resurrection, he has the first place and all the creation. He has the first place in redemption and in the church it's all about him and his glory.

So if that's true about the creation, generally and the church generally then that must be true about your life. Specifically that your life would be about the glory of Christ. The glory of Christ who made you. The glory of Christ who became a man and shut his blood to redeem.

You The glory of Christ who will make you one day to be exactly conformed to his own glory. So let's your heart love him and aim at his glory in your life. Let's pray. We thank you, Lord, Jesus, for this portion of your word which has reminded us again that you are the living God from everlasting to everlasting.

You made all things they're all made through you. They're all made for you. And yet it is you have given yourself for us and it is you have taken us as a church to be your bride and you raise us up. Even as you have risen yourself, help us to love you.

Help us to love your glory. Help us to see how much you have loved us so that we will love you. Because you first loved us help us to aim at your glory. In all of our life, help us to be confident of that perfect glory that we will see you in and that we will radiate with ourselves and the last day.

Grant, all these things by your spirit. We ask in Jesus name, amen.