

THAT IN ALL THINGS HE MIGHT HAVE THE PREEMINENCE COLOSSIANS 1:18

Text: Colossians 1:18

Colossians 1:18

¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

Introduction:

I have heard some very well meaning people make the statement, “The Lord is a big part of my life.” We all know what is meant by that statement, and certainly would find it somewhat commendable. But too often that statement is very literally true in many Christians’ lives. They tend to view Christ as only a part of the whole. He is only a part of their life.

The fact is; Christ does not wish to be merely a part of our life, but to be the essence of it—to be the life itself. Paul even says as much in Colossians 3: 4 where he refers to Jesus as:

Colossians 3:4

⁴ When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Put another way, we might say that Christ is not satisfied with being a part of our life; He wants to be preeminent in our life.

In essence, Christ should be before all and above all in our life—first, foremost, and supreme in every aspect of our life.

In this message I not only want to explain the preeminence of Christ, but by so doing, give glory and honor to the Lord for Who He is. He is the Preeminent One.

Christ is:

1. PREEMINENT IN HIS PERSON

A. He is Superior

- His Name

Philippians 2:9-11

⁹Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; ¹¹And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Illustration:

After the American Civil War the managers of the infamous Louisiana Lottery approached Robert E. Lee and asked if he'd let them use his name in their scheme. They promised that if he did he would become rich.

Astounded, Lee straightened up, buttoned his gray coat, and shouted, "Gentlemen, I lost my home in the war. I lost my fortune in the war. I lost everything except my name. My name is not for sale, and if you fellows don't get out of here, I'll break this crutch over your heads!"

- His Position

Revelation 19:16

¹⁶ And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

B. He is Sinless

Luke 23:4

⁴ Then said Pilate to the chief priests and *to* the people, I find no fault in this man.

Luke 23:39-41

³⁹ And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. ⁴⁰ But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed justly; for

we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

C. He is the Saviour

John 1:29

²⁹ The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Luke 9:56

⁵⁶ For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save *them*. And they went to another village.

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

2. PREEMINENT IN HIS POWER

A. Creative Power

Colossians 1:16

¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Even more exemplary of the power of Christ in creation is the fact that the book of Genesis tells us that Christ created merely by the word of His mouth. Jesus simply said, "Let there be," and there was.

B. Controlling Power

- He controls and holds everything together.

Colossians 1:17

¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

- He controls Satan and the demons

Illustration – Job

Matthew 8:16

¹⁶ When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with *his* word, and healed all that were sick:

The child of God doesn't have to live in fear of the devil, because Jesus defeated him at the Cross of Calvary.

Illustration:

Writing in Moody Monthly, Carl Armerding recounted his experience of watching a wildcat in a zoo. "As I stood there," he said, "an attendant entered the cage through a door on the opposite side. He had nothing in his hands but a broom. Carefully closing the door, he proceeded to sweep the floor of the cage."

He observed that the worker had no weapon to ward off an attack by the beast. In fact, when he got to the

corner of the cage where the wildcat was lying, he poked the animal with the broom. The wildcat hissed at him and then lay down in another corner of the enclosure.

Armerding remarked to the attendant, “You certainly are a brave man.”

“No, I ain’t brave,” he replied as he continued to sweep.

“Well, then, that cat must be tame.”

“No,” came the reply, “he ain’t tame.”

“If you aren’t brave and the wildcat isn’t tame, then I can’t understand why he doesn’t attack you.”

Armerding said the man chuckled, then replied with an air of confidence, “Mister, he’s old—and he ain’t got no teeth.”

C. Curing Power

Over Physical Sickness

- He healed a leper—Matt.8: 3.
- He healed a withered hand—Matt.12: 13.

- He healed a man with palsy—Luke 5: 18-26.
- He raised the dead—John 5: 21.

Over sin-sickness

Colossians 1:14

¹⁴ In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:

Colossians 1:21-22

²¹ And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled ²² In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

3. PREEMINENT IN HIS POSITION

A. Is the Divine Prophet

No man spoke like Jesus did

John 7:46

⁴⁶ The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.

Matthew 7:28-29

²⁸ And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: ²⁹ For he taught them as *one* having authority, and not as the scribes.

Luke 24:19

¹⁹ And he said unto them, What things? And they said unto him, Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, which was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people:

B. Is the Divine Priest

- He is sympathetic with the saints

Hebrews 2:18

¹⁸ For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

The word “succour” means “to come to the aid of anyone”.

- He is continually making intercession for the saints

Hebrews 7:27

²⁷ Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

C. Is the Divine Potentate

The word “potentate” refers to “a person having great power; ruler; monarch”.

The question you must consider today is: Is Jesus Christ the ruler and monarch of your life?

1 Timothy 6:14-15

¹⁴ That thou keep *this* commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: ¹⁵ Which in his times he shall shew, *who is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

Close:

Does Christ have the preeminent place in your life?