

We Believe: “By Whom All Things Were Made”
Colossians 1:15-20

*... by whom all things were made.
(The Nicene Creed)*

Christ over all.

- The Christ hymn of vv. 15-20 is structured around the use of “firstborn”.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (Colossians 1:15)

And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. (Colossians 1:18)

- “Firstborn” does not mean created; “firstborn” speaks of authority and rule.

And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. (Psalm 89:27)

- Paul is saying that Jesus is Lord in two realms:

- Vv. 15-17 - The realm of creation and...
- Vv. 18-20 - The realm of new creation.

- Jesus is the Lord over creation.

- Jesus is the Lord of creation because he is God.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him. (Genesis 1:27)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. (Colossians 1:15)

- Jesus is like God because Jesus is God.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. (Hebrews 1:1-3)

To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. (1 Timothy 1:17)

- God became man without ceasing to be God

Remaining what he was, he became what he was not. (Gregory of Nazianzus)

- Application:

- Let this bring clarity to what all true Christians believe regarding Jesus.

- Let this bring change where your life is at odds with the Lordship of Christ.
- Let this bring comfort where your life feels out of control and upended.
- Jesus is the Lord over the new creation, the church.
 - The hymn reminds us that creation is broken.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. (Ephesians 6:12)

- It's that crooked creation that calls for the second stanza—a new creation.
 - God's response to sin is not obliteration.
 - God's response to sin is reconciliation.

The New Testament writers speak as if Christ's achievement in rising from the dead was the first event of its kind in the whole history of the universe. He is the 'first fruits', the 'pioneer of life'. He has forced open a door that has been locked since the death of the first man. He has met, fought, and beaten the King of Death. Everything is different because He has done so. This is the beginning of the New Creation: a new chapter in cosmic history has opened. (CS Lewis)

Christ over us.

...that in everything he might be preeminent. (v. 18)

- Be sure that Jesus is preeminent in your life.
 - Jesus is not the reason for the season.
 - Jesus is the reason *for everything*.

There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry: 'Mine.' (Abraham Kuyper)

- Be sure that Jesus is preeminent in this church.
 - Jesus does not exist for our church.
 - Our church exists for Jesus.
- Be sure that Jesus is preeminent among the nations.
 - Jesus is an afterthought in many places, and Jesus is not even named in other places.
 - So, how are you and I making Jesus known among nations and neighbors?