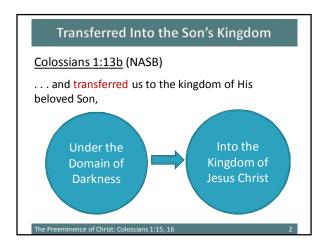
The Preeminence of Christ

Colossians 1:15-16

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Christ Is the Unique Image Bearer of God

Colossians 1:15a (HCSB)

He is the image of the invisible God

- It is Christ in whom we find our goal and purpose as those being conformed to His image (Col. 3:10; Romans 8:29; Gen. 1:26, 27)
- John 1:18; 2Corinthians 4:4-6; Hebrews 1:3; John 14:9
- Christ both reveals the unseen God and pre-existed with Him as God (John 1:1)



he Preeminence of Christ: Colossians 1:15, 16

Christ Is Preeminent Over Creation

Colossians 1:15b (HCSB)

the firstborn over all creation.

he Preeminence of Christ: Colossians 1:15, 16

- The denotes supremacy over or priority of rank, not existence as a created being
- Israel is called God's firstborn in Exodus 4:22
- PSA 89:27 "I also shall make him My firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth."
- HEB 1:6 "And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, 'And let all the angels of God worship Him.'"

Christ Is the Creator

Colossians 1:16a (HCSB)

For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible . . .

- Christ created "the all"; which is the entire universe and beings that dwell in it
- 1CO 8:6 yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

Christ Supreme Over the Angelic Realm

Colossians 1:16b (HCSB)

he Preeminence of Christ: Colossians 1:15, 16

... whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him

- All the universe is created "for" Christ, the preeminent Creator
- "... to bring everything together in the Messiah, both things in heaven and things on earth in Him." (Eph. 1:10b HCSB)



e Preeminence of Christ: Colossians 1:15, 16

Implications and Applications

- We must honor and worship Christ as the supreme Creator
- We must not fear fallen angels nor personally engage them
- As created image bearers we must seek to be conformed to the image of Christ

We Must Honor and Worship Christ

Revelation 7:9, 10 (NASB)

The Preeminence of Christ: Colossians 1:15, 16

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'

We Must Honor and Worship Christ

Revelation 5:9, 10 (NASB)

e Preeminence of Christ: Colossians 1:15, 16

"And they sang a new song, saying, 'Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.""



he Preeminence of Christ: Colossians 1:15, 16

We Must Not Fear Fallen Angels nor Personally Engage Them

<u>Jude 1:8 – 10a</u> (NASB)

Yet in the same way these men, also by dreaming, defile the flesh, and reject authority, and revile angelic majesties. But Michael the archangel, when he disputed with the devil and argued about the body of Moses, did not dare pronounce against him a railing judgment, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" But these men revile the things which they do not understand;

The Preeminence of Christ: Colossians 1:15, 16

Seek to be Conformed to the Image of Christ

Colossians 3:10 (NASB)

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and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him

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