

Daily Bible Readings

Our Read-Ahead for: 05 February 2023

The Supremacy of Jesus Christ

Monday: Christ, the Head of the Church (**Ephesians 1:17**)

Tuesday: Christ, the Firstborn of the Dead (**Revelation 1:1-6**)

Wednesday: Christ, One with the Father (**John 17:20-21**)

Thursday: Christ, the Reconciler to God (**2nd Corinthians 5:16-21**)

Friday: Christ, the Channel of God's Grace (**Romans 5:15-21**)

Saturday: The Compelling Call of Christ (**Matthew 4:18-25**)

Sunday: The Person and Work of Christ (**Colossians 1:15-20**)

The Supremacy of Jesus Christ
Bible Background • **Colossians 1:15–20**
Printed Text • **Colossians 1:15–20**
Devotional Reading • **Ephesians 1:17–23**

Keep in Mind: “*For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;*” (*Colossians 1:19, KJV*)

Aim for Change

“By the end of the lesson, we will: **UNDERSTAND** Paul’s description of Jesus Christ’s supremacy; **EXPRESS** feelings of amazement at the supremacy of Jesus Christ; and **DESCRIBE** to others the awe-inspiring preeminence of Christ for bringing reconciliation.”

In Focus

“This week’s lesson gives believers a bigger picture of who Jesus is and His position in the world. Hopefully, as our view of Him increases, our perception of our personal problems will decrease.”

Focal Verses
Colossians 1:15–20

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

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:

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

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.

19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

The Lesson

I. The People, Places and Times

- a. **Colosse:** Colosse (also spelled “Colossae”) was located on a ridge overlooking the Lycus River Valley in the southwest corner of Asia Minor, now Turkey. At the time of Paul’s writing, its neighboring cities, Laodicea and Hierapolis, were becoming more important, while Colosse was in decline. Epaphras and Timothy established churches in all three of these cities, but at this writing, Paul had yet to visit the believers at these churches personally. However, Paul did tell Philemon, a native of Colosse, that he was hoping to visit him (Philemon 1:22). Scholars believe that Paul wrote this letter during his first imprisonment in Rome, approximately A.D. 60. He received a report from Epaphras of the progress being made with this budding church, he also alerted Paul to the false teachers gaining a foothold in the church.
- b. **Epaphras:** Epaphras had established the faith in Colossae; Christianity came to Colossae through his work. He was converted and rooted in the faith by Paul during Paul’s stay in Ephesus. Paul was not the founder of these congregations and never paid them a visit. He commended Epaphras for his excellent work.

II. Background

A heretical (false teaching) movement started in Colossae. Before any real damage could be done, Epaphras reported to Paul the errors that were circulating among the congregation. Under Paul’s direction Epaphras founded the church in Colossae. Paul was imprisoned at the time, probably somewhere in Rome. Paul responded by sending Tychicus with this epistle (letter) to the Colossians. Paul wrote the epistle to crush the false teaching. The identity of the heretics was not clear. They could have been members in the congregation pretending to be Christians or nonmembers from the outside. The Colossian heretics may also have been native Jews, not members of the Colossian church, who added fancy ideas to Epaphras’ teaching and fought to win members for their peculiar beliefs. Through this brief but powerful writing, Paul completely took care of the erroneous ideas. The theme of the letter focuses on Christ’s superiority. The false teachers in Colossae were attempting to reduce the significance of Christ’s authority and work. Paul, therefore, set forth his case about Christ and His elevated position.

III. In Depth

- a. **Christ Reigns Supreme in Creation** (Colossians 1:15–17) In the earlier verses of Colossians 1, Paul gives many statements and compliments to the Colossian church. Starting in verse 15, however, his focus changes and he gives central attention to Christ.

- b. **Christ Reigns Supreme in the Church** (Colossians 1:18) Paul goes on to further point out Christ's supremacy by saying, "he is the head of the body, the church"
- c. **Christ Reigns Supreme in Redemption** (Colossians 1:19–20) Before he ends this section, Paul makes two more strong statements about Christ. The first statement is: "For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell."

IV. Take Aways

V. Closing Prayer