

Jesus Christ: First in all things

Colossians 1:17-23

Paul has established the deity of Christ, who is the image of God, **prototype** exact representation, outshining of God's glory the very source of God's person, personality & character, if you want to know what God is like look at Jesus.

17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead; so that He Himself might come to have first place in everything.

All things hold together—Atoms are building blocks of material universe—*Aramaic Bible Heb 11:3 For by faith we understand that the worlds were fashioned/created by the word of God, and these things that are seen came into being out of those things which are unseen. More space than matter in atom*

Nucleus of atom made up of protons or positive charges & should not hold together (**two magnets**). Scientist say what hold them together is atomic glue, masons, modern term '**strong nuclear force**' allowing the nucleus to stay together w/o which the nucleus would fly apart. Bible says Jesus holds all things together. **2Pet 3:10** tells us what will happen when Jesus lets go—*But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. Nuclear fission atoms are split apart, releasing energy.*

He is **head** of church, body of Christ—master who directs, is creator & leader, source of **ekklesia**, the called out ones, the **church**—churches function is to reflect the Head—*light so shine see good works....*strange, odd antics uncharacteristic of head, it's mans flesh, Jesus would never act like that. **Like Mary-worshiped anointed fragrance filled city**

Beginning-has priority, originator **Jn 1:1** all else follows after. He is pre-eminent, the church originated in Him & today has it's operation in Him. Those who pioneer a new way, alternate course are false teachers leading

Jesus Christ: First in all things

Colossians 1:17-23

in wrong direction-Misuse of scripture--date setting, little gods heresy, \$\$ heresy, Shepherding heresy

Firstborn from dead –priority position, having 1st place—not only in creation but in death. First in resurrection, 1st fruits of those who sleep—*Jn 14:19*

“After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also. I go away to prepare a place...

First place in everything--your master passion-**surfing if too much show me**

19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Father's joy, His good pleasure- to think well of, well content w/ fullness Godhead in Son sum total, super abundance dwelling in His son—Philip didn't get it....*Jn 14:8-10* *8Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” 9Jesus said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?*

No other religious systems can reveal or introduce God to others. Heretics use term *fullness* for emanations manifesting themselves w/ knowledge to their adherents greater than Jesus.

Jesus is God's only plan to *reconcile*, bring together sinners & God--To change our status from sinner to saint, guilty to forgiven, rejected to accepted. Made right w/ God—Heal & restore the broken relationship. Brought near to God those once dead in sin & trespass but now have peace, sins forgiven, no guilt or condemnation. Only one way thru blood of Jesus Christ & the cross. **w/o shedding no forgiveness**, life is in blood, all have sinned & fall short....Jesus blood **propitiation** sacrifice God accepts for our forgiveness.

Jesus Christ: First in all things

Colossians 1:17-23

21 And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, 22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach

Before *alienated*, estranged, shut out, excluded, a non-participant **all have sinned....** And *hostile in mind* an enemy, hated, outward or silently mocking—lifestyle of evil deeds **show** contempt for God & His plan to be first in all things in our life—Now Jesus Christ substitutionary death paid price to restore fellowship to God now holy, set apart and blameless w/o blemish, beyond reproach, unchargeable.

In the 19th century, France & Belgium had a military enlistment system called "replacement" that allowed citizens to pay a substitute to serve in their place. The substitute was paid with money that was originally enough to cover the cost of a replacement. **Jesus our replacement**

Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved.” Jesus take **Mat 26:26-29** **John 10**

23 if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

If is not used as unfulfilled, hypothetical condition saying there is a possibility of failure but used as a future realization of assuming you continue in the faith preached by Paul thus presented you holy w/o blemish w/o charge to God. ***‘if you hold fast to the word I preached to you unless you believed in vain.’1cor 15:2*** The passage refers to born again believers at Colosseae not unsaved professors of Christianity who get caught up in heresies. Those who continue in the faith are those Paul speaks to **not** the talkers, false believers following false teacher who say the gospel needs the addition of their doctrine for salvation.

Jesus Christ: First in all things

Colossians 1:17-23

One writer says "if" can rightly be rendered "if so be,". In other words "If ye continue in the faith (which you will assuredly do)." What we have here, then, is a definite loyalty.

Paul is not casting doubt on our salvation; he is simply saying that a person who is genuinely saved will most assuredly continue in the faith. It is not a question of "if you do this or that," you will be saved; it is a question of "because you are saved," you will do this or that.

Continue, remain, stay, adhere to--a continual action--Those saved don't leave the path of Christ or deviate & return to old ways which were & are unstable, w/o hope--they don't bail out when challenged or discouraged. You have been declared right by God, you have new nature, you are loved by God, HS dwells in you so you continue on

Commentators don't say a believer will **never** "backslide" (frankly, most of us have backslidden to one degree or another) but according to this verse in Colossians, the individual who backslides will not persevere or "continually continue" in their backslidden condition until the end.

"Continuance is a proof of reality. Of course there is always the danger of backsliding, but a Christian falls only to rise again He does not forsake the faith." *Pr 24:16 For a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again, But the wicked stumble in time of calamity.* **Pig and Son**

WW You have heard the Gospel and trusted Jesus Christ, "and He has saved you." In other words, we are not saved by continuing in the faith. But we continue in the faith and thus prove that we are saved