

ALL THINGS

Colossians 1:13–18

¹³ He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in 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 may have the preeminence.

—Colossians 1:13–18

Read Colossians 1:13–18

All around us in the world, we see people trying to downplay the person of Jesus and the significance of what He has done. While some try to deny Jesus ever lived, others attempt to relegate Him to being simply another religious figure in a pantheon of religious figures. People are often willing to acknowledge Him as a baby in a manger born to bring peace to the world, an embellished historical figure, or even a martyr on a cross. However, those who ignore, dismiss, and downplay the work and accomplishments of Jesus not only jeopardize their welfare in this life, but also their eternal welfare! This degrading of the person of Jesus is especially lethal when it invades the church, because when the church downplays the person of Jesus, they lose

not only their effectiveness but also their ability to lead people to salvation. Knowing Jesus personally—and all He is and has done—is a matter of life and death!

False teachers had infiltrated the church in Colossae and were downgrading the person and the work of Jesus. These false brethren were insisting that faith in Jesus was insufficient to make them recipients of salvation. They claimed to have secret and superior means to qualify for salvation. Before confronting the false and heretical doctrines these men were spreading, Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, chose to remind the Colossians of the greatness of Jesus and the work that He alone accomplished for them.

As believers, we have come to believe and know the greatness of Jesus and what He has done for us, but we are always in jeopardy of becoming dull to these great realities. When dullness sets in, like the believers in Colossae, we are susceptible to degrading, downplaying, or simply losing the sense of indebtedness to Jesus for the enormity of what He has done for us. For our own spiritual well-being, it is important to refresh ourselves in the person of Jesus and take time to consider what He has done. We do this not only by reading our Bibles, but also by meditating on Scripture (thinking about what He has done), thanking the Lord in prayer, talking with other believers about it, and sharing these truths with nonbelievers. As we seek to be mindful of the greatness of who Jesus is and what He has done, we are spiritually strengthened and we strengthen others.

Let this week's study in Colossians 1:13–18 be a catalyst to keep you centered on the greatness of Jesus and His accomplishments.

1. Use the following phrases from Colossians 1:13 to capture the immensity of what God has done for you through Jesus:
 - a. *Delivered us from the power of darkness*
 - b. *Conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love*

2. From Colossians 1:14, comment on what it means to you that you have received through His blood:
 - a. *Redemption*
 - b. *Forgiveness of sins*

3. Using Colossians 1:15–18, share your heart's reaction about the person of Christ:
 - a. *Image of the invisible God*
 - b. *Firstborn over all creation*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

As sinners we were in bondage to Satan, but through Christ we have been delivered from his clutches and now we are subjects of Christ's kingdom. Satan's kingdom is one of darkness—an absence of light, warmth, and joy; while the kingdom of Christ is one of love, which implies the presence of all three.¹²

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

—John 14:9

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Paul uses polar extremes, “in heaven and on earth” and “the visible and the invisible,” to demonstrate the all-inclusive totality of his reign. He also specifies “thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities” to emphasize Christ’s unrivaled supremacy over all spiritual and physical beings.¹³

- c. Creator of all things
- d. *All things were created through Him and for Him*
- e. *Before all things*
- f. *In Him all things consist*
- g. *Head of the body, the church*

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

“In Him all things consist” means that Christ is the One who “holds everything together.” We know that all matter is made up of atoms, which are made up of protons and electrons. The nucleus is the proton, which is positively charged; and the electrons, which are negatively charged, revolve around the nucleus. But how do we get the atoms to hold together to form matter? We know that like charges repel, while opposite charges attract. So, what holds the atoms together, when the laws of electricity say they should repel and explode?

The force that holds them together is so strong that, when it is interrupted, a nuclear explosion is the result. So, what is the force that is equal to an atomic blast in every atom? It is Jesus, the One who holds it all together.¹⁴

—Pastor Chuck Smith

h. *The beginning*

i. *Firstborn from the dead*

4. According to Colossians 1:18, what is Jesus to have in all things?

a. What ramifications does this have in your life?

5. Note how many times in these verses Paul uses the phrase *all things*. What does this phrase further connote to you about Jesus?

6. What is your takeaway from Colossians 1:13–18?

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Paul used the word “head” in both a literal and metaphorical sense. Literally, “head” implies authority, rule, and supreme rank. Metaphorically, it plays on the imagery of Christ’s relationship to the church as head of the body. He is the head because he is the beginning and the firstborn from the dead. The parallel language to the creation identifies the church as part of the new creation that was inaugurated with the resurrection of Christ. His resurrection resulted in the fulfillment of God’s purpose for Christ that he might come to have first place in everything.¹⁵