

COLOSSIANS

Christ is All and in All

“All in Christ”

Colossians 1:15-23

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“We, then, following the holy Fathers, all with one consent, teach men to confess one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the same perfect in Godhead and also perfect in manhood; truly God and truly man, of a reasonable soul and body; consubstantial with us according to the manhood; in all things like unto us, without sin; begotten before all ages of the Father according to the Godhead, and in these latter days, for us and for our salvation, born of the virgin Mary, the mother of God, according to the manhood; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, to be acknowledged in two natures, unconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably; ...

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“... the distinction of natures being by no means taken away by the union, but rather the property of each nature being preserved, and concurring in one Person and one Subsistence, not parted or divided into two persons, but one and the same Son, and only begotten, God the Word, the Lord Jesus Christ, as the prophets from the beginning have declared concerning him, and the Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us, and the Creed of the holy Fathers has handed down to us.”

– Chalcedonian Creed, 451 A.D.

*How do our values and hopes
gradually shift sometimes
even without us realizing it?*

“All in Christ”

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1. Christ above all in Creation– 1:15-17

“... firstborn of all creation ...”

2. Christ above all in Reconciliation – 1:18-20

“... firstborn from the dead ...”

3. Christ above all for You – 1:21-23

“... not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard...”

“All in Christ”

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1. Christ above all in Creation – 1:15-17

“... firstborn of all creation ...”

How Above All

How All Creation

How Applies

“All in Christ”

COLOSSIANS

1. Christ above all in Creation – 1:15-17

“... firstborn of all creation ...”

“image of the invisible God”

“firstborn of all creation”

“by him all things ... through him and for him”

“before all things and in him all things hold together”

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“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 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. 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

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“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

- John 1:1-3

“All in Christ”

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1. Christ above all in Creation – 1:15-17

“... firstborn of all creation ...”

How Above All

How All Creation

How Applies

2. Christ above all in Reconciliation – 1:18-20

“... firstborn from the dead ...”

How Above All

How All Reconciliation

How Applies

2. Christ above all in Reconciliation – 1:18-20

“... firstborn from the dead ...”

“head of the body, the church”

“beginning, the firstborn of the dead”

“in everything he might be preeminent”

“in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell”

2. Christ above all in Reconciliation – 1:18-20

“... firstborn from the dead ...”

How Above All

How All Reconciliation

How Applies

“All in Christ”

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3. Christ above all for You – 1:21-23

“... not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you hear...”

How Above All

How All Accomplished

How Applies

*How can our values and hopes
continue stable and securely
on Christ in everything?*

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“...The false teachers, it appears, argued from cosmology to spirituality: because the universe was filled with spiritual powers of various sorts, ultimate spiritual “fullness” could be achieved only by taking them all into consideration (see esp. Paul’s counterargument in 2:14–15). Thus Paul in the hymn places particular emphasis on the supremacy of Christ—in both creation and redemption—over the powers (vv. 16, 20).”

– Douglas Moo

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“Redemption is not thought of dualistically, as though the created world were totally evil and salvation meant being rescued from it. Creation is God’s work—Christ’s work: though spoilt by sin, it still belongs to God and God still has plans for it. Redemption is not an invasion from a different or hostile realm. The Lord of this world has come to claim his rightful possession.”

– N. T. Wright

“..., if Christ’s is the power which sustains the whole universe from remote beginnings to its final goal (verse 17), is it reasonable to doubt his power to sustain the individual believer from conversion to glory?”

– Dick Lucas



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