

# SERMON OUTLINE Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Is Preeminent - The Image of the Invisible God

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## **WHAT DOES IT MEAN THAT JESUS IS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD?**

*God Is Spirit and Spirit Is Invisible (John 4:24; Exodus 3:14)*

*God Made Himself Visible (Genesis 3:8-9; Exodus 3:12-14, 24:7; Isaiah 6:1; Ezekiel 1:26-27)*

*Jesus Is the Ultimate Revelation of God (John 1:14; Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:19)*

## **HOW DOES KNOWING THAT JESUS IS THE IMAGE OF GOD HELP IN OUR SUFFERING?**

*I Am with You (Matthew 28:20)*

*You Will See Me (1 Corinthians 13:11-12; Revelation 1:7)*

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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As I mentioned in my last sermon on Colossians, we're going to consider the various aspects of Jesus' preeminent nature, one at a time over the next several weeks. We'll begin looking at them this morning with the first aspect named by Paul and the big idea of this sermon: Jesus is preeminent in that He is the image of the invisible God. The main takeaway is to learn look unto Jesus when life is hard by remembering that He is with us and that one day we will see Him face to face.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. When you think of Jesus' preeminence and that He is the image of the invisible God, what first comes to mind?
3. Can you name a time in which a specific aspect of the glory of Jesus truly helped you through a difficult time?
4. Had you ever considered that all three persons of the godhead were only spirit until the incarnation? Had you ever considered that Jesus is still and forever will be body and spirit since the incarnation? Why might those truths matter?
5. Had you heard of "ontology" or "theophany"? Do you know why those things are significant for worshiping God?
6. Which OT theophany stands out to you the most and why?
7. Had you ever considered the truth that OT theophanies were designed by God to point to and create longing for Jesus?
8. Have you ever thought that if you could see and hear from Jesus, things would be better/easier? Does it seem to you that if your ordinary senses could detect Him, you'd follow Him more faithfully? What do the NT responses of others say about that?
9. When did you first have eyes and ears to see and hear Jesus?
10. Which of the the two promises of Jesus (that He is with us and that we will see His face) has been more helpful in your trials?
11. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

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12. Read straight through the entire book of Colossians.
13. Begin memorizing Colossians 1:15-20.
14. Consider [THIS](#) Ligonier article on the Ontological Argument for God's existence and greatness.
15. Ask God to open the spiritual eyes and ears of someone you love, that they would respond to the gospel in faith.
16. Share your testimony with your DG.
17. Read NT descriptions of what it will be like to be with Jesus at His return.
18. Ask someone to tell you one thing they got from this sermon and one way to pray for them in light of it.
19. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

## PRAYER POINTS

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20. Adoration. Praise God that He is spirit, pure being. Praise Jesus that He is the image of the invisible God and that in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell. Praise God that Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God.
21. Confession. Confess ways you are looking to things more than God for help. Confess indifference to the preeminence of, presence, and return of Jesus and the appearances of God. Confess faithless desire to see God with ordinary senses.
22. Thanksgiving. Thank God for revealing Himself at various times and in various ways, but ultimately in Jesus. Thank God for giving you spiritual eyes and ears. Thank God for giving you His Word and people to help you treasure Jesus.
23. Supplication. Ask God to give someone you love spiritual eyes and ears. Ask God to fill our church with amazement at the revelation of God in Jesus. Ask God to help us see all of our hardships in light of the preeminence of Jesus.