

SERMON OUTLINE Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Is Preeminent - In Him All Things Hold Together

INTRODUCTION

JESUS IS THE PREEMINENT SUSTAINER OF EVERYTHING THAT HAS BEEN MADE

Preservation

Concurrence

Government

JESUS IS THE PREEMINENT SUSTAINER OF THE CHURCH

Head of the Church Universal

Head of the Church Local

CONCLUSION

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of this sermon is that Jesus sovereignly reigns over every renegade thing that causes our difficulty, both inside and outside the Church. The main takeaway is to find and trust in Jesus' promises concerning His sovereign grace through all that causes our suffering.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. What is the hardest trial you can imagine? What is the best news you can imagine concerning that trial? How do your answers relate to the trials of the Colossians and Paul's answer to them?
3. What hardships are you facing? What help is there for them? How many times have you prayed for help? What happened?
4. Why do you look like you every day? Why does water freeze and boil at the same temperatures? Why do created things remain intact? Why don't we simply dissolve into mist or just cease to exist at any given moment?
5. What do you think of the fact that Jesus is continually holding all things together?
6. Which of Jesus' preservation, concurrence, and government stands out to you? Which seems most helpful in suffering?
7. How does the fact that Jesus is the head of the Church universal and local shape your life? Which is more encouraging?
8. Can you name one way in which Jesus' preeminence over Grace Church should change the way we do things?
9. Jesus is preeminent over original, ongoing, and eternal (re)creation. Which fills you with more wonder and worship?
10. If Jesus would do one thing for you in your trial, what do you wish it would be?
11. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

12. Read straight through the entire book of Colossians.
13. Begin memorizing Colossians 1:15-20.
14. Make a list of every biblical promise you can find for those who are suffering. Visit someone who is suffering this week. Listen to them. Pray with them. Share a gospel promise with them.
15. Find some way to artistically celebrate the glorious truth that Jesus is holding all things together.
16. Take part in a (new-to-you) ministry this week. Focus on the fact that if it is biblical, Jesus is already working in it.
17. Tell someone about the difference the preeminence of Jesus makes in your life.
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

20. Adoration. Praise God that He is creator, sustainer, preserver, concurren, governor, and recreator of all that has been made. Praise God that He is preeminent in everything. Praise God that Jesus is the head of the Church universal and local.
21. Confession. Confess any ways you are living as if something other than Jesus is holding your life and ministry and church together. Confess any ways you are neglecting to live as if Jesus is the head of the Church or that His purposes might fail.
22. Thanksgiving. Thank God for calling you into His Church and for sustaining you in it forever. Thank God for holding all things together. Thank God for good science and Christian scientists. Thank God for the Church's victory in Christ.
23. Supplication. Ask God to help our church function more fully in light of Jesus' preserving preeminence over us. Ask God to help us see His creation (including ourselves) as He means us to. Ask God to help us trust His promises in Jesus.