

# SERMON OUTLINE Colossians 1:15-20

Jesus Is Preeminent - He Is the Firstborn from the Dead

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## **INTRODUCTION**

## **THE POWER OF THE PARALLELS**

### **JESUS IS THE BEGINNING, THE FIRSTBORN FROM THE DEAD (18b)**

*Jesus Is Risen*

*Jesus Rose So Many Would Rise with Him*

### **IN JESUS ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD WAS PLEASED TO DWELL (19)**

### **IN JESUS ALL THINGS ARE RECONCILED TO GOD (20)**

*Jesus Reconciles All Things*

*Jesus Reconciles All Things by His Blood*

### **ALL OF THAT TO DEMONSTRATE JESUS' PREMINENCE (18c)**

## **CONCLUSION**

# SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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## MAIN POINT

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The big idea of this sermon is that just as Jesus is preeminent over all Creation, so too is He preeminent over all redemption and recreation. Said another way, the combination of Jesus' work in creating the heavens and the earth and His resurrection from the dead shows that all things belong to Him. The main takeaway for us, then, is to praise God and trust in the resurrected Jesus for every aspect of our lives and salvation.

## 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. What has your Easter involvement looked like over the years? What is the same and different from when you were a kid?
3. If you had to describe the significance of Easter to someone who'd never heard of it, what would you say?
4. Why does the resurrection matter? Why wasn't it enough that Jesus died on the cross?
5. Have you ever stopped to consider how fantastic the story of Easter really is? If it weren't true, it'd be crazy, wouldn't it?
6. Why do you think it matters that Paul draws parallels between Jesus' role in creation and recreation? Are they helpful to you?
7. What's the most glorious aspect of Holy Week? What aspect of it has been the most worship-producing and help-giving?
8. Have you ever thought of Easter as a celebration of your resurrection?
9. Are you able to explain why Jesus had to be both God and man to save the world from our sin?
10. What do you think Paul means when He says that God determined "through [Jesus] to reconcile to Himself all things"?
11. Which aspect of eschatological reconciliation and peace are you most looking forward to?
12. Why is it the best news that Jesus' preeminence is shown through His reconciling work?
13. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

## AREAS OF APPLICATION

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14. Read straight through the entire book of Colossians.
15. Begin memorizing Colossians 1:15-20.
16. Change one aspect of your Easter celebration to be more in line with the preeminence of Jesus. Share that with someone.
17. Use the list of discussion questions on the back of the Maundy Thursday bulletin around your dinner table on Easter.
18. Share the good news of Easter with someone who doesn't already believe it.
19. Ask someone to tell you one thing they got from this sermon and one way to pray for them in light of it.
20. 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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21. Adoration. Praise Jesus that He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead. Praise Jesus that He is preeminent in everything. Praise Jesus that all the fullness of God dwells pleasantly in Him. Praise Jesus that God is reconciling all things to Himself in heaven and on earth. Praise Jesus that His blood is alone sufficient to save the world.
22. Confession. Confess any ways you've been caught up in sin or worldliness instead of the glories of the resurrection and the preeminence of Jesus. Confess any fear or apathy that's kept you from sharing the good news of the resurrection with others.
23. Thanksgiving. Thank God that Jesus' death was sufficient payment for your sins. Thank God that we are able to join Jesus in His resurrection through faith. Thank God for a family/ church that loves the preeminence of Jesus and trusts in Him alone.
24. Supplication. Ask God to open the eyes of three people to the preeminence of Jesus. Ask God to fill your head with true thoughts and your heart with right feelings of worship concerning the resurrection. Ask God to be with the lonely and hurting.