

The Preeminence of Jesus (A Study in Christology - Part 2)

Colossians 1:16-17

Context: Colossae was a small town whose church began through a faithful Christian named Epaphras (Colossians 1:7). Paul wrote the letter of the Colossians to correct false teaching about Jesus. After his greeting in Colossians 1:1-14, Paul opens his letter with a strong doctrinal foundation of Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:15-23).

As you study the Preeminence of Jesus...

A. _____ at His vast creativity (vs. 16)

1. "Jesus did not come into existence when he was born of the virgin Mary. He was the agent of creation through whom God made heaven and earth. Jesus cannot be the first thing created (as the ancient Arian heresy claimed) since "all things" without exception were created by him." (ESV Study Bible)
2. John 1:3 (ESV) All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
3. 1 Corinthians 8:6 (ESV) yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

B. _____ his Eternal Nature (vs. 17a)

1. "When the universe had its beginning, Christ already existed, thus by definition He must be eternal." (MacArthur Study Bible)
2. The doctrine of Christ's pre-existence from eternity is taught or implied in such passages as Micah 5:2; John 1:1; 8:58; 17:5; 2 Cor. 8:9; Phil. 2:6; 1 John 1:1; Rev. 22:13.

C. _____ on his Sustaining Power (vs. 17b.)

1. "Christ continually sustains his creation, preventing it from falling into chaos or disintegrating" (cf. Heb. 1:3). (ESV Study Bible)
2. "The planets stay in their orbits because Jesus holds them there. If he can do that, you can be confident that he can hold you too. If things are falling apart in your life, it might just be because Jesus doesn't hold the preeminent position in your heart." (Tony Evans)