

This Sunday we started a new series, The Born Supremacy, which is based on the book of Colossians. The central theme to Colossians is the supremacy and sufficiency of Jesus Christ. During this four-week series we are going to drop into each chapter of Colossians:

- Week 1: 7 Big Truths about a Big Jesus (Colossians 1:15-20)
- Week 2: What does Christian maturity look like? (Colossians 1:28,29; 2:6-8)
- Week 3: Living Kingdom down, not Culture Up (Colossians 3:1-4 and verses 4-10)
- Week 4: People last forever

Colosse was a small town in the Roman province of Asia Minor (modern day Turkey). Paul wrote this letter to the Colossians while he was in prison. *My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings...* Colossians 4:10. The letter was written by his own hand - *I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand. Remember my chains. Grace be with you.* Colossians 4:18; and was carried [and probably read] by Tychicus to the church at Colosse. Colossians 4:7. This letter was also for the greater Church (beyond Colosse): *After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.* Colossians 4:16.

Someone wrote of Jesus: “Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He [most likely] worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty and then for three years was an itinerant preacher. He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family. He never travelled more than two hundred miles from the place where He was born.

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. One of them denied Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was nailed on a cross between two thieves. While he was dying his executors gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth - His coat. When he was dead, He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen long centuries have come and gone, and today He is the centrepiece of the human race and the leader of the column of progress. I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever were built, all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.”

We cannot think enough about Him or too highly of Him. In reality, we spend a lot of time thinking about ourselves, and not enough thinking about Him!

Our entire timeline of human history is centred around the birth of Jesus Christ - whether you believe in Him or not! Any events that happened in the time before His birth are termed BC - before Christ; and anything following His birth, AD - “anno domini” - which is Latin for “in the year of our Lord”.

Paul, the writer of the book of Colossians, did not like Jesus at first. Paul hunted down Christ-followers until an extraordinary event on the road to Damascus: *...as I was on the road, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions. We all fell to the ground, and I heard a voice saying to me in Aramaic, ‘Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ “Then I asked, ‘Who are you, Lord?’ ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,’ the Lord replied.* Acts 26:13-15.

From that day on, Paul was radically transformed. He became an ardent fan and follower of Jesus Christ, speaking about Jesus and spreading the Gospel for the rest of his life.

In Chapter one of Colossians, we find one of the most Christ-centered, Christ-exalting and Christ-explaining passages of Scripture in the whole Bible! *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.* Colossians 1:15-20

Seven Big Truths About a Big Jesus

1. Jesus is the image of God

The Son is the image of the invisible God. Colossians 1:15. Jesus was not just a miracle worker or moral teacher, He is God, walking the earth in human form to reflect to us what God is like.

2. He is Ruler over all creation

“the firstborn over all creation.” Colossians 1:15b.

Firstborn in this context means “of highest rank”. He rules the world, and He will judge the world. Everything is beneath Him in rank. How are we living- as if we are no. 1 or as if He is the Ruler?

3. He is the Source of all creation and its ultimate end

For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. Colossians 1:16.

In Him - Source

Through Him - Means

For Him - Reason

“Creation is for Christ in the sense that He is the end for which all things exist, the goal toward all whom all things were intended to move. They are meant to serve His will, to contribute to His glory...their whole being willingly or unwillingly, moves ... to Him; whether, as His blissful ser

wants they shall be as it were His throne, or as His stricken enemies, 'His footstool'" HCG Moule.

4. He sustains all things

He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17.

As light radiates out from the sun, a fraction of those rays touch the earth and the other planets orbiting the sun. And while planets are in need of the sun, e.g. to sustain life on earth, the sun does not need of the planets. The same can be said of the Son - as His glory shines, we are touched by a fraction of His glory, and our lives are transformed!

The entire universe is in Him, and he sustains us.

5. He is the Head of the Church

And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. Colossians 1:18.

Christ is the head of the church. We all have different preferences, but to be in His Church means to be submitted to Him. The question on our minds should be: "what does He want for His Church and how can we exalt Him? In a practical sense, this means that He should have supremacy in our lives... in our living and our suffering, our families and our marriages, our spending, our jobs... everything! Our purpose is to know Christ and to make

Him known.

6. He is fully God

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him... Colossians 1:19.

This is one of the clearest statements in the Bible that helps us understand that Jesus Christ who walked on this earth was fully divine. He was not just a man; He was God.

7. He is the Reconciler

Through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. Colossians 1:15-20. Reconciliation is about peace, understanding and relationships. Creation by nature (through sin) is an enemy of God. The supreme Christ reconciled us, through Him on the cross, back to God.

Our carefree existence has no idea of the impact of the sacrifice of Christ. He owes us nothing, and we owe Him everything. How incredible is it that God would sacrifice His son for us. What kind of fools would we be to reject Him? And yet He is so gracious and merciful, that even in our rejection and rebellion, He still sustains us, hoping that we will see the gift of reconciliation he offers us through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Icebreaker: (Choose one question)

- If Paul were to write you a personal letter, what might he say to you?
- If you could interview Jesus in person, what three questions would you ask Him about Himself?

Questions: (Choose two or three)

1. Since we last met, how have you felt God speak to you through your personal prayer and Bible reading?
2. Please read Colossians 1:15-18 (our text from Sunday). What aspects of this verse inspire you the most?
3. If Jesus created all things for Himself, then He created you for Himself (Col 1:16). What does this mean to you? In what ways does this comfort you or concern you?
4. In what areas of life have you found it toughest to put Christ first or follow His commands?
5. How does knowing Christ is superior and has more authority than any and every power in all creation give you the courage to live a godly life regardless of the obstacles that life throws at you?

PRAYER POINT

Pray for each other that we would actively think about Christ and ensure that He has supremacy in our lives? (This can be done as an entire group together or in smaller groups of 3).

ACTION POINT

Who can you write an encouraging letter to sometime during the next week? Settle on a name before you leave LifeGroup tonight and send the letter during the next week.