COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS – LESSON 3 COLOSSIANS 1:15-19 WEEK OF JANUARY 5 – JANUARY 10

JESUS CHRIST IS GOD!

The Bible is a book about Jesus Christ. The Old Testament looks forward to his coming. The gospel accounts tell of His works here on earth in the flesh and proclaim His deity. The book of Acts and the epistles tell of the content and proclamation of the gospel in the inception and growth of the church. The Book of Revelation presents Christ as the powerful conquering, majestic reigning King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

"But of all the Bible's teaching about Jesus Christ, none is more significant than **Colossians 1:15-19**. This dramatic and powerful passage removes any needless doubt or confusion over Jesus' true identity. **It is vital to a proper understanding of the Christian faith**. <u>MacArthur New Testament Commentary Colossians & Philemon</u>, John MacArthur, p. 44

The book of Colossians was written in response to a threat to the Church of Colosse. That heretical teaching attacked the person of Jesus Christ. Some Bible scholars referred to this teaching as the Colossian heresy. These teachers taught a form of Greek philosophy which held that spirit was good and matter was evil. Meaning that God had nothing to do with creation. They rejected the deity of Christ and the humanity of Christ. Paul writes his letter to refute this heretical teaching to explain and reveal the Lord's true identity. Paul refutes these ideas by defending the deity and humanity of Christ in **Colossians 1:15-19**.

Read Colossians 1:15-19:

- 1. Paul begins his defense of the deity of Christ in Col. 1:15(a). What does he teach in this verse?
- 2. The Greek word "eikon" (from which we get the word icon) is translated "image" meaning the exact likeness or copy. What do the following passages teach about Christ as the perfect image and representation of God?
 - John 1:1 and 1:14
 - John 14:9
 - Phil 2:6
 - Hebrews 1:3

"By using the word "eikon" Paul emphasizes that Jesus is both the representation and manifestation of God. He is the full, final, and complete revelation of God. He is God in human flesh. MacArthur Commentary Colossians & Philemon, p. 45

3.	Some cults rely upon vs.15 to deny the Lord's deity by arguing He is a created being. Firstborn is not a reference only to first in time, but most often refers to highest in rank, first position or preeminent. How do the following passages refute the heresy that Christ is a being created by God?
	• Col. 1:16 and 17
	• John 1:1-3
	• John 8:58
4.	From Colossians 1:16, John 1:3 and Heb 1:2, what was the role of Christ in creation?
5.	In Col. 1:16 , Paul teaches, "all things have been created through Him and for Him." This passage teaches that you were not only made by Him, but you were made, you exist, for Him. How does that truth affect the way in which you will conduct your life today and every day?
6.	From Col. 1:17 and Heb 1:3 , what additional truths about Christ's eternality, power and role in the physical world do you find?
7.	In this section of Colossians, Paul is highlighting Christ's preeminence and authority. What does Paul teach about Christ's authority over the Church in Col. 1:18 ? What additional explanation is added in Ephesians 4:11-16 and Ephesians 5:22 ?
со	ne church is a body and Christ is the head of the body. This concept is not used in the sense of the head of a mpany, but rather looks at the church as a living organism, inseparably tied together by the living Christ. He ntrols every part of it and gives it life and direction." MacArthur Commentary Colossians & Philemon, p. 51
8.	In vs. 18 , Paul refers to Christ "He is the beginning" in relation to the Church. How does Ephesians 1:4 help to understand that truth?
9.	In vs. 18 , Paul again uses the phrase "first-born" from the dead referring to His resurrection, meaning the highest in rank of those resurrected. What did Paul explain in verse 18(b) resulted from Christ's death and resurrection on our behalf?
10	. In Col. 1:19 Paul sums up this section by stating that all the "fullness" of deity dwells in Christ. Knowing that Jesus is God, how does your life reflect that Christ "might come to have first place in everything"

(vs. 18)?