

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.** MacArthur New Testament Commentary Colossians & Philemon,

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

