

YOUTH CHURCH

COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

This morning we are continuing our series in Colossians. Last week, while looking at Colossians 1:9-14, we talked about our faith and how we can be continually growing. This morning we are looking at Colossians 1:15-23 and how we can have confidence that God is in control of everything.

TASK 1:

This week saw the beginning of lent, the forty days leading up to Easter. During this time people take the opportunity to give something up that they love so that they can spend more time with God. Something you might have heard of from the young adults is called 40acts. This is forty challenges of kindness during lent, so rather than giving something up you take on a good deed.

This week, your task is to do something for another person. Examples could be, doing the dishes for your parents without them having to ask, making them their tea or coffee or sending an encouraging text to a friend. Take a few minutes and write down some acts you could do this week to help a family member or friend.

You can write them
down here!

.....

.....

.....

.....

**SUPREMACY MEANING: POWER
OVER EVERYONE/THING**

TASK 2: BIBLE STUDY

What is the key verse?

What are the repeated words?

What surprises you?

What do you learn about the Colossian church?

What is Paul's main point in this passage?

How does this passage apply to your life as a Christian?

SOME THOUGHTS...

In the passage we are looking at today Paul starts off with a quite confusing statement, saying that 'The Son is the image of the invisible God' in verse 15. Here we are told God is invisible, but, Jesus makes Him visible. Nowadays, if you wanted to see what someone looked like you can look them up on Instagram or Facebook etc. But here Paul is explaining to us that if we want to know what God is like, we need to be looking to Jesus. We are also told about this in Hebrews 1:3 which states Jesus is 'the exact representation of his being.' But Jesus is far more than a picture of God, but rather, He is God. He wasn't God's representative on earth, but He was God on earth.

If we read over verses 16-20 again,

Verse 16: For in him **all** things were created... **all** things have been created through him and for Him...

Verse 17: He is before **all** things, and in him **all** things hold together.

Verse 18: So that in **everything he** might have the supremacy...

Verse 19: So God was pleased to have **all** his fullness dwell in him,

Verse 20: and through Him to reconcile to himself **all** things

The words 'all' and 'everything' are repeated multiple times in these verses. Here, Paul is showing both the Colossian Christians and us today that the message of Jesus is universal and is important for every single person. Reading these few verses the first time it can be easy to not skip over them as we have heard them before. But I encourage you to read over them a few more times and think about all the different people you have met, all the things you do in your every day life. Jesus is at the centre of every aspect of our lives. In verse 17, Paul says that 'in him all things hold together,' this isn't simply an explanation for things science can't explain, God works in ways we can explain too! Jesus is at work all around us, even when we can't see it.

Finally, Paul talks about Jesus' death and resurrection in verses 20-23, explaining how his death was a sacrifice for both the Colossians and us today. His death breaks open a way back for God for the whole of humanity.

TASK 2: REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- 1) There are many ways we can see God working in our lives, is there a time you can think of that God helped you through something? Does thinking about the times God has helped you with something help with things that you struggle with today?
- 2) Looking over verses 16-20 again, how can this encourage us today?
- 3) Take some time to pray about something you are struggling with, ask God for help to see that He is in control of everything.

COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

The Supremacy of the Son of God

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 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. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 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. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 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.

21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of[a] your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— 23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.
