

And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Daniel 12:2 (ESV)



3. Jesus and Me

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, Colossians 1:21–22 (ESV)

if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister. Colossians 1:23 (ESV)

Digging Deeper Sermon Study

1. **Read Colossians 1:15-23.** What are the consequences of sincerely believing that everything in the universe was created through and for Jesus?
2. **Read Colossians 1:15.** How would you respond to a Jehovah's Witness who says Jesus is not God because this verse tells us he is the first created being?
3. **Read Colossians 1:15-20.** How should these verses transform your appreciation for the importance of your local church?
4. **Read Colossians 1:21-22; Romans 5:10; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20.** Why is it comforting that God is the one who always takes the initiative when it comes to bringing us to God?
5. Did this study make Jesus bigger in your heart? In what way?
6. What are the major distractions in your life that take your eyes off who you are in Christ and your role in his body?

Colossians 1:15-23 - Who Is Jesus?

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1. Jesus is the creator of all things.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:15–17 (ESV)

Jesus is the image of the invisible God.

...Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? John 14:9 (ESV)

I and the Father are one." John 10:30 (ESV)

(Jesus) He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature,... Hebrews 1:3 (ESV)

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. Romans 8:29 (ESV)

Jesus is the firstborn of all creation.

*And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.
Psalm 89:27 (ESV)*

A. By him all things were created in heaven and earth.

but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. Hebrews 1:2 (NIV)

B. Jesus created the visible and invisible world.

C. All things were not just created by Jesus but they will come back to Jesus.

so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:10–11 (ESV)

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen. Romans 11:36 (ESV)

D. Jesus is before all things and in him all things hold together.

The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will. Proverbs 21:1 (ESV)

2. Jesus is the one who will reconcile all things.

And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. Colossians 1:18–20 (ESV)

that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. Romans 8:21 (ESV)

But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 2 Peter 3:13 (ESV)

and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Revelation 20:10 (ESV)