

## THE ALL; Colossians 1:15-20

### I. All Things

- A. In counseling you are taught not to use, or encourage the use of, all-inclusive words
  - 1. "Every time you..."
  - 2. "You never..."
  - 3. "You always..."
- B. The use of all-inclusive words in a marriage relationship tend to build barriers to communication
- C. Except when it describes The Christ in His marriage relationship to His bride, the church
- D. Image of the invisible
  - 1. Binds to otherwise contrary concepts - image which is something seen and "invisible" which is outside human sight
  - 2. "In Christ, man can see what God is like, His very nature and being." Bratcher
- E. The firstborn of all creation
  - 1. This is not establishing His birth order in the realm of creation
  - 2. This is establishing His preeminence
- F. With Jesus being the very image of God (the exact representation) and preeminent in all creation, Paul can use nothing but all-inclusive terms to describe Him and His work
- G. The literal Greek translation is "the all"

### II. Created

- A. Colossians 1:16; 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.
- B. In Heaven and on Earth
  - 1. Describes the place
  - 2. It is interesting for me to see "in heaven" because we always think of heaven eternal, without beginning or end
  - 3. Genesis 1:1; In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.
  - 4. The phrase is used to indicate the whole universe
  - 5. John 1:1–3; 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.
  - 6. If you see it, He made it!
  - 7. If you don't see it, He made it!
- C. Visible and invisible
  - 1. Describes the nature
  - 2. "Not corresponding to earthly and heavenly. There are visible things in heaven, such as the heavenly bodies, and invisible things on earth, such as the souls of men."  
Word Studies in the New Testament, Marvin R. Vincent
- D. Thrones, dominions, rulers, and authorities
  - 1. Paul must be referring to any authority, seen or unseen, heavenly or earthly
  - 2. Jesus created heavenly authorities (angels) and earthly rulers
  - 3. Many commentators say this refers to the angelic realm but the meaning of the Greek words do not bring that across
  - 4. These same words are used in other places where the context determines that the author is referring to the heavenly realm
  - 5. But here it is clear that Paul is referring to ANY realm!
- E. The idea is that Jesus created all things, and they were created through Him and for Him

F. Jesus created THE ALL

### III. Hold Together

- A. Colossians 1:17; And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
- B. To be composed of many parts into a cohesive and enduring whole
  - 1. Cohesive; held together
  - 2. Enduring; to continue to exist in the same state or condition
- C. Hebrews 1:3; He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
- D. The writer of Hebrews brings us back to the idea of the Word (Jesus) being God's power to create, to hold together
- E. Today's English Version - "in union with Him all things have their proper place"
- F. Jesus is the one who holds THE ALL together!

### IV. Preeminent

- A. Colossians 1:18; 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.
- B. This is not talking about Jesus firstborn in time, but in kind
- C. This is talking about our covenant with God through His son Jesus
- D. This new covenant is better, greater, grandeur than any other covenant before because it is through the only begotten (one and only) son
- E. John 3:16; "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
- F. Only Son - "The only one of its kind or class, unique"
  - 1. John 1:18; No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.
  - 2. 1 John 4:9; In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him.
- G. Since the Son is preeminent, firstborn, unique, the one and only, then the covenant is as well
- H. Galatians 3:19; Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.
- I. Hebrews 2:1-10; 1 Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. 2 For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, 3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, 4 while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. 5 For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. 6 It has been testified somewhere, "What is man, that you are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him? 7 You made him for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honor, 8 putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. 9 But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. 10 For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom **all things** exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the founder of their salvation perfect through suffering.

J. Philippians 2:9–11; 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

K. Jesus is preeminent (before all others in importance) over THE ALL

V. Reconcile

A. Colossians 1:19–20; 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

B. The restoration of a previously harmonious relationship (to restore harmony)

1. the only other relationship man had with God was in the Garden before sin
2. Genesis 3:8; And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

C. Man's sin has invaded everything (THE ALL)

1. Starting with the ground (thorns and thistles, Genesis 3:18)
2. Soon after mankind's exodus from the garden, the first murder occurs
3. Buildings are built from pride, to reach the very heavens, and even God Himself
4. It gets so bad that God starts over with just Noah, his wife, his sons and their wives, 8 people in all
5. Yet even then it starts again with Noah getting drunk and Ham's derisiveness
6. "Sin ruined the universe. It destroyed the harmony between one creature and another, also between all creatures and their God. Through the blood of the cross, however, sin in principle has been conquered ... the law satisfied ... the curse borne ... harmony restored ... peace made." William Hendriksen
7. Sin is an invasive ill and only one thing can cleanse it

D. Ephesians 2:13–16; 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility.

E. Jesus reconciled THE ALL to himself with His blood

VI. THE ALL

A. Jesus created THE ALL

B. Jesus holds THE ALL together, all things have their proper place in THE ALL through Jesus

C. Jesus is preeminent over THE ALL

D. Jesus reconciled THE ALL with His blood

E. You are part of THE ALL, have you been cleansed by His reconciliation?