

JULY 20 DEVOTIONAL

Colossians 1:15-28

1. According to verse 15, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation." What does this verse reveal about Jesus' nature and relationship to creation?
2. Verse 16 states, "For by him all things were created.....all things were created through him and for him." What does this passage teach us about the scope and purpose of Christ's creative work?
3. In verse 17, Paul writes, "And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together." How does this verse emphasize Christ's preeminence and his continuous role in the universe?
4. In verse 18 what does it mean for Christ to be "the head of the body, the church," and "the firstborn from the dead"? What do you think the full significance of the phrase "in everything he might be preeminent" is?
5. According to verses 19-20, "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." Did Jesus only have a little bit of who God is in him? What was Jesus's accomplishment that is talked about here? Who can forgive sin? (Mark 2:7)
6. Verse 21-22 describes the Colossians' former state: "And you... were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled you... by his death." How does these verses highlight the transformative power of Christ's reconciliation for believers?
7. What is the ultimate purpose of Christ's reconciliation, as stated in verse 22: "to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him"? Is this our deeds or Christ's that make us blameless? Does this mean that God is not calling us to live holy lives?
8. Paul warns in verse 23, "if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard." What is the condition for the assurance of remaining presented "holy and blameless"?
9. In verse 24, Paul states, "Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church." What does Paul mean by "filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions," and how does it relate to his ministry? How can we suffer for Jesus's gospel?
10. What is the "mystery" that God chose to make known to his saints, as revealed in verses 26-27: "To them God chose to make known how great... are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory"? What does verse 28 tells us that we are to do and what the result will be? How can you proclaim, admonish, and teach yourself and others?