



A satellite view of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet, the sun in the upper center, and city lights at night.

**COLOSSIANS**  
**CHRIST ABOVE ALL**

# COLOSSIANS

***“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.”***

**(Colossians 1:18)**

# COLOSSIANS

## OUTLINE

- **The Head and His body (Chapters 1-2)**
  - The Gospel of Grace and Truth (1:1-14)
  - The Preeminent Christ (1:15-23)
  - The Hope of Glory (1:24-2:7)
  - Not According to Christ (2:8-23)
- **Seek the things above (Chapters 3-4)**
  - Seek the Things Above (3:1-8)
  - Put Off That Old Man (3:9-17)
  - Do Everything as For the Lord (3:18-4:6)
  - Slaves, Prisoners and Brethren (4:7-18)

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15 He is the image of the invisible God,  
the **firstborn** over all creation.

16 For everything was created by him,  
in heaven and on earth,  
the visible and the invisible,  
whether thrones or dominions  
or rulers or authorities—  
all things have been created through him and for him.

17 He is **before all things**,  
and by him all things hold together.

18 He is also **the head of the body**, the church;  
he is **the beginning**,  
the **firstborn** from the dead,  
so that he might come to have  
**first place** in everything.

19 For God was pleased to have  
all his **fullness** dwell in him,

20 and through him to reconcile  
everything to himself,  
whether things on earth or things in heaven,  
by making peace  
through his blood, shed on the cross.

# COLOSSIANS

- **Jesus makes the invisible God visible (15)**
  - To “see” Jesus is to “see” God ([Jn. 14:9](#)); Not “looks” but in personality and nature
  - *“the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God”* ([2 Cor. 4:4](#))
  - *“the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature”* ([Heb. 1:3](#))
- **Christ enjoys the “status” of the firstborn Son relative to all creation**
  - Not “among” all creation. He was not created. He created all things. ([16](#))
- **“For” He created ALL things (wherever, whatever, whomever) (16)**
- **All creation was “through” Him and “for” Him**
  - “he is the source of the physical universe and the reason for its existence” - Olbricht
- **He IS... before creation was created. He is preexistent, eternal (17)**
- **He sustains His creation; He holds it all together...**

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- **Christ is the one head of the one body, His church (18; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4)**
  - He controls, directs, and governs, and the body obeys to accomplish His will
- **He is the source of eternal resurrection for His church to follow (18)**
  - Not the first person resurrected, but **preeminent** in the power of His resurrection
  - His victory over death gave Him *“first place”* over everything (Heb. 2:9)
- **It pleased God to tabernacle His fullness in Christ (19)**
  - *“For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell” (NKJV)*
  - Complete manifestation of God’s majesty, authority, power, love, mercy, grace...
  - Christ is the realization of His eternal plan (Eph. 3:11)
- **God’s purpose was to reconcile all things to Himself through His Son (20)**
  - Relationships severed by our sin are restored through His blood on the cross

# COLOSSIANS

- **He made peace with you, even though you once were... (21)**
  - “alienated” – excluded (Eph. 2:12; 4:18)
  - “hostile in mind” – enemies of God by your own thinking
  - “doing evil deeds” – walking in rebellious, sinful practices
- **He suffered and sacrificed His fleshly, human body to include you (22)**
  - To provide a means of cleansing / propitiation in His blood (forgiveness)
  - To provide a motive for our response by such an outpouring of love
- **IF you persist, persevere in “the” faith (23)**
  - Grounded, fixed on the firm foundation that has been laid
- **IF you don’t shift from “the” hope that is in what you heard, “the” gospel**
- **The same gospel I have preached everywhere**
  - “As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.” (Gal. 1:9)

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**NEXT TIME:**

**The Hope of Glory**

**(1:24-2:7)**

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**Thank you for your attention and participation**

