

Col.1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

1:17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

1:19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,

1:20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

1:21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled

1:22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight-

1:23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

From Today's Sermon

The scripture states, "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." Does this mean Jesus is not the eternal God who existed from the beginning, but rather the first created being born before the creation of all things? No. This signifies that Jesus existed before the world of all creation began and is God, superior to all creation.

"The Son is the image of the invisible God." Jesus Himself declared:

"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9).

"For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

And he is 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." How powerful it is that such a One, risen from the dead, is the head of the church, that this One is first as head, and that we can follow him. The One who created all things in this world is with us.

Good morning, everyone.

The intensity of the midday heat shows no sign of abating. Yet, come morning and evening,

we hear the chirping of bell crickets and see dragonflies flying. We look forward to the pleasant days of autumn, a season of comfortable moments. I hope you have been keeping well and avoiding heatstroke.

Now, we continue reading through Colossians. The following words left a strong impression:
1:13 God has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.

1:14 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.

The power and dominion of darkness. Bound within its authority and controlling force, we desire to do good, yet another power resists it, making it difficult to do what is right. Paul describes this state in a famous passage in Romans.

7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells within me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

7:19 For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing.

7:20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but the sin that dwells within me.

7:21 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

7:22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man,

7:23 but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

7:24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

7:25 But thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death.

8:3 For what the law could not do, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. Thus he condemned sin in the flesh

We have been delivered from the dominion of darkness. We have been redeemed through the Son—that is, we have received forgiveness of sins. How great an event this is, how immense a grace and salvation it represents—this is repeatedly recorded in Scripture. We too wish to ponder deeply the meaning of this. How wonderful is this truth: we are no longer slaves to the power of darkness. We have been set free from that power through the Lord's redemption and

are now under the rule of the beloved Son. History shows liberations from oppressive regimes, like the liberation of people from the Nazi Party, freeing them from unbearable suffering. Yet, surpassing all these, this liberation is the wonderful news (the Gospel) for all humanity.

1:15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Why did the Son, Jesus, go to such lengths? Because He is the One who created all things.

1:15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

This passage is often subject to misinterpretation.

There is a view that the Son is merely the image of God, born slightly before all created things, essentially a created being—distinct from God Himself who has existed eternally. But is this correct? Of course not.

This signifies that He existed before every single created thing came into being, proving Jesus is not a created being. It also implies He is superior and preeminent over all creation.

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.

All things were created through him and for him, whether visible or invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities.

This makes it clear that nothing visible or invisible, no authority, power, dominion, or sovereignty, is superior to the Son through whom all things were created. It is obvious which is superior: the Creator or the created. The Son, Jesus, reigns over “all things, whether visible or invisible, whether thrones or dominions, or powers or authorities.”

He Himself, and throughout verses 17-18, the nature of Jesus is powerfully revealed.

1:17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Without the pre-existent Son, without the One who is the source and cause, all things would not have been created. All things hold together through the Son. And this Creator continues

to guide all things with power and authority. All things are held together. They exist. The very fact that they exist in this state, as a matter of course, is due to the Son, Jesus.

1:18 And He Himself is 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.

He is the Firstborn. Verse 16 mentioned “throne, dominion, rule, and authority,” and the third term, “rule,” carries the meaning of “firstborn, progenitor, origin, cause.” Here too, the word appears as “the Firstborn.” He is the One who existed from the beginning, the One who established the origin of the world's beginning, and also the first to atone for sin, die, and be resurrected. The creation of the world's beginning and salvation truly depend on the Son, Jesus Christ. He is the first who has overcome all things.

1:19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all fullness should be dwell,

1:20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

This Son, Jesus, is full of things for us to see, know, and learn.

In Jesus dwells the fullness of every virtue. And through Jesus, and only through Jesus, by His precious blood, He reconciled all things to Himself—things in heaven and things on earth.

Because Jesus is the Creator, He laid down His life for the world He Himself created as its Originator.

1:21 You were once alienated from God and hostile in your minds because of your evil deeds.

1:22 But now he has reconciled you by the death of his body, through the word of the gospel, to present you holy, blameless, and irreproachable before him.

1:23 But you must continue to stand firm in the faith, without shifting from the hope of the gospel you have heard—the gospel that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a minister.

In our hearts, in our understanding, in our will, in our thoughts, in our attitudes, we were enemies of God, opposing Him, though created by Him, and ultimately became strangers.

But now God has reconciled us through the flesh of His Son. It was through His death that

He made us pure, set apart, and blameless before God, without fault or reproach.

Now, standing firm in our faith in the Son Jesus, unshaken, we desire to live in this good news, the gospel, holding fast to this faith in our hearts, in our understanding, in our will, in our thoughts, and in our attitudes. We long to live in this grace, following the gospel we have heard. We give thanks for this good news proclaimed to us, and we also give thanks for the labor of those who came before us, desiring to be proclaimers ourselves.

For the head of the church is the Lord, the Creator of all things. In Him all things were created, both in heaven and on earth, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him. The One who was raised from the dead by faith, who with love and faithfulness protects and guides the world He created—this is the head of our church. Therefore, we too can press forward with hope.

◇Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for this day of worship.

The Son is the image of the invisible God, and all things were created through Him. Whether things in heaven or on earth, visible or invisible, whether thrones or dominions, powers or authorities—all things were created through Him. Though we face various troubles in this world, we hold onto hope because the Son who created this world is present. With His authority, He governs all that occurs within it. And since He is the Head of the Church, we give thanks that the Church may also receive the Lord's best guidance in every season. Please lead all those who suffer into God's salvation and peace. Bless our families and our neighbors. Use us. We pray in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.