



Introduction to “Christ First”

It may sound overly simple, but Christ is first and he is enough. We see in the passage repeated examples of Christ’s supremacy and sufficiency for all of creation, for the church and for us as individual believers. Too often I catch myself either treating Christ as part of an overall “holiness regimen,” that includes him but isn’t solely reliant on him. In reality -- at risk of sounding like a children’s Sunday School teacher -- Jesus truly is the answer. He paid the price we could not afford, he rose from the dead and paved the way for sinners to have a father/child relationship with the holy God. He was the only one who could and he is still the one who draws us into that relationship. As you study and discuss this week’s passage, consider also the ways you have attempted to make your faith work without completely relying on him.

Colossians Focus:

The preeminence (superiority, excellence, distinguished, surpassing nature) of Christ in all of life (1:18).

Part 3: Christ First

Text: Colossians 15-23

1:15-17 First in Creation

1:18-20 First in the Church

1:21-23 First in Me

Big Idea: Christ is first and Christ is enough.

What you do with that will define your life, for better or worse.

From the Sermon (add your own notes here):

1. First in Creation

- a. Jesus is the original.
- b. All creation was by him, through him and for him.

2. First in the Church

- a. And 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, that in everything he might be preeminent.

3. First in Me

- a. He has now reconciled... if indeed you continue in the faith... not shifting from the hope of the gospel.

Getting Started

How would your 2020 be different from 2019 if you could see things as simply as “Christ is first, he is enough and everything else I have is God’s grace”?

Digging Deeper

1. What does it mean to you that Christ is the image of the invisible God? What can we learn from something invisible becoming visible?

2. As the image of God, what then does Christ’s life on Earth reveal about God’s character? (this could be its own sermon series, so beware hour-long rabbit trails)

3. Consider the phrases through this passage about Christ’s supremacy and sufficiency. What does each one mean for you in your life?:
 - a. 15, he is the image of the invisible God... the firstborn of all creation... specially honored, first and only Son over all creation.
 - b. 16, By him all things were created... all things were created through him, all things were created for him.
 - c. 17, He is before all things... in him all things hold together.
 - d. 18, He is the head of the body, the church... he is the beginning, he is the firstborn from the dead... in everything he is preeminent.
 - e. 19, In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

- f. 20, He reconciles all things to himself... he makes peace by the blood of his cross.

4. Read verse 18. Discuss a working definition of “preeminent.” How would you explain Christ’s preeminence to someone who was new to the Bible?

5. From verses 20-21, define “alienated” and “reconciled.” What is really happening here? What did Christ accomplish “in his body of flesh, by his death”?

6. Verse 23 does not mean we must be perfect. So what does it mean to continue in the faith? To not shift from the hope of the gospel?
 - a. What is, succinctly, the “hope of the gospel?” Is it only for after we die or for this life as well?

7. How would your 2020 be different from 2019 if you could see things as simply as “Christ is first, he is enough and everything else I have is God’s grace”?

Live It Out

Pray: Jesus taught his disciples to pray first by acknowledging who God is. Take a minute in prayer to recognize Christ as both supreme and sufficient in your life.

Confess: What in your life is getting priority over Christ? Where is he NOT preeminent in your day-to-day?

Act: Share anything you wrote under “What will I do this week?” in your bulletin. How can you live as if Christ truly is first and enough?