


Lesson 6 - Who is Our Lord? (part 1)

I. Colossians 1:15-20 -

- A. The prayer from the previous section encourages us to grow in the knowledge of God. This section of scripture gives us a glimpse of who Jesus is and what his purpose is. In order to grow in love for our Lord and to live as he lived, it is important to know Jesus.

B. Words and Concepts

1. **Firstborn** - The word is both a description and a title. As a description, it refers to one who was born first. As a title, the First Born had preeminence, which meant that he was second only to the head of the household and would take over in the absence of his father. The first born of kings, of course, would rule in the absence of the father. The First Born would be the ruling prince in the kingdom. Speaking of Christ, the title refers to all authority being given to him by the father to be Lord and ruler over all creation. (Note: As a title, first born ones were not always literally the ones born first. Examples include Jacob, who was born after Esau, who became the "firstborn" in title, or Isaac, who became Abraham's first born even though Ishmael was born before Isaac. So, a first born one did not necessarily have to actually be born first, nor did he necessarily have to be a blood relative. One could be adopted as a first-born as well).
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2. **Dominions, Rulers, Authorities** - This is a reference to spiritual powers and principles that are at work under the surface and are often imperceptible by unbelievers. They can be a personal being or underlying principles (usually unexamined) that order the values, laws, institutions, and actions of society. It is the principalities, or the "spirit of the age" which may or may not be good or righteous. (For instance, consumerism, individualism, capitalism, socialism, secularism, and many other principalities that order a worldly society).
 3. **The Body** - The "body" is a common New Testament term to refer to the church of Christ. Sometimes the New Testament uses the term, "Body of Christ," in which we, the people, are the body of Christ, and Jesus is the head of the body. This suggests an intimate connection between Christ as Lord and his church, which he established (Col 1:24; 1 Cor 12:12-14).

4. **Church** - The word "church" means "assembly." The reference is not to a building or to a structure, but to the body of people who have made their allegiance to Christ as Lord and whom Christ has reconciled to himself. The church is the community of the faithful.
5. **Reconcile** - To reconcile means to bring two people or factions together. Sin came between us and God, causing a rift. Jesus took away the rift through his death on the cross and brought reconciliation between God and us.

II. Scripture Reflection: What does this paragraph say about Christ?

A. (v.15) He is the _____ of the invisible God

1. What do these *additional* passages reveal about Christ?

- a. (Heb 1:2-3) - Jesus is the _____ of his glory and the exact _____ of his nature."
- b. (Jn 14:7-9) - If you had known me, you would have known the _____ also.
- c. (Jn 5:19) - Whatever the Father does, these things the _____ also does in like manner
- d. (Jn 1:1-3, 14) - The Word (who is God) became _____ and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory.

2. Analogy: When going to a foreign country, it is best to know the customs, language, idioms, values, etc. of the culture so you can communicate understandably. Jesus coming from Heaven to Earth as a human is similar to this. He came and walked in our shoes from birth to death, teaching and modeling through human language, within human culture, and as a human being how we should be. Theologians call Christ becoming human the "incarnation." Missiologists call this "incarnational" ministry. The significant of this passage is that we can see the character, will, and message of God demonstrated in human form through Jesus Christ.



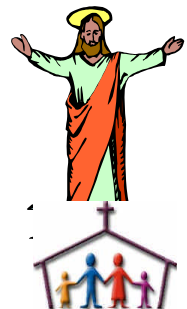
B. (v.16) By Him all things were _____, both in the heavens and on the earth, visible and invisible, whether _____ or dominions or rulers or _____...

1. (v.16) All things have been created _____ Him and _____ Him
2. (v.17) In Him all things _____
3. (v.20) It was the Father's good pleasure ... to reconcile _____ to Himself
4. What do these additional passage reveal about the relationship between the Lord and the creation?
 - a. (Rom 13:1) - There is no _____ except from God, and those which exist are established by God
 - b. (Rom 8:21) - The creation itself also will be _____ from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.
5. Reflections based on these passages:
 - a. Notice that nothing in creation was created to exist for its own benefit. Everything is created by the Lord for the Lord. Therefore all things and people exist to serve the Lord, which is why Jesus went to the cross in order to redeem the creation (both human and inanimate) which had been corrupted by sin.
 - b. Question: Since no person, object, or authority figure is autonomous but depends on the creator, what ideally should be the relationship between authorities and the creator?

C. (v.18) He is also the _____ of the body, the _____ the _____ from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in _____

1. Since Jesus rose from the dead and became the "firstborn," he now has preeminence. Even though the church has leaders, where is the ultimate authority for the church?

2. According to this passage, what is the ultimate authority for you?



III. Summary Questions:

- A. Since Jesus is the image of the invisible God, or the Word become flesh, what sort of relationship should you have with Him? What does his lifestyle and actions have to do with you?

- B. What is your reaction to knowing that Jesus constantly sustains all creation, and that all things hold together only because of Him?

- C. Jesus has first place in _____'s life. What is your reaction to this statement?
(write your name here)

- 1. What are some areas in your life where this is a challenge?

- 2. What are some ways in which Jesus can truly have first place in your life?

Monday

1. Read Colossians 1:15-20 slowly
2. Spend some time in prayer. Write down any reflections or thoughts between you and God here:

3. Complete any part of the previous lesson that is incomplete.

Tuesday

1. Read John 15:12-13 slowly
2. Reflect on what Jesus desires for you be like.

3. Prayer: Share your thoughts with God

<p><input type="checkbox"/> Wednesday</p> <p>1. Read John 15:12-17</p> <p>2. Reflect: What did Jesus choose you for? How did he demonstrate and model this in his own life? How would this specifically look in your life right now?</p> <p>3. Prayer: Share your thoughts with God</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Thursday</p> <p>1. Read: Psalm 139 slowly</p> <p>2. Reflect: Identify some hurtful, ungodly, or other negative thoughts you have had recently and talk about them with God, asking him to examine and purify your heart.</p> <p>3. Prayer</p>
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<p><input type="checkbox"/> Friday</p> <p>1. Read Psalm 139 Slowly</p> <p>2. In what ways do you feel the presence of God with you every day? In what ways do you struggle with his presence?</p> <p>3. Prayer: Share your thoughts with God</p> <p>4. Read over and begin to do the next lesson</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Saturday</p> <p>1. Read over and complete the next lesson</p> <p>2. Prayer</p>
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