



Sunday, September 19, 2021  
Pastor Keith Sovo

## **Intro to Colossians 1:15-23**

The totality of Jesus’s identity and authority is astonishing. He created everything, everything exists for Him, and He holds everything together. The book of Hebrews tells us that He “upholds the universe by the word of His power” (Heb. 1:3). That means everything that exists, exists because Jesus decided it should. That means everything that continues to exist, owes its existence to Jesus. It’s just baffling to consider all the implications of that.

But even though He created everything, and everything exists for Him, He did not consider that authority something to be grasped. Instead, the book of Philippians tells us that He “emptied Himself by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Phil. 2:7-8).

What grace! What mercy! The God who created everything humbled Himself to face perhaps the most gruesome execution known to man, what’s more, to face the wrath of God that we rightly deserved because of our sin, all so we could live forever with Him in peace and harmony. That grace is truly amazing!

### **Context**

Paul has just finished praying that the Colossians would have all spiritual wisdom so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord (1:9-10). It turns out, all wisdom is found in Jesus Christ (2:3), so even as Paul prays for the Colossians to have all spiritual wisdom, he begins to unpack for them the wisdom of God in Christ. Because God created everything through Jesus, then we can be confident that His work of redemption and salvation are equally effective. Just as surely as He has created everything, He is redeeming all those who have faith in Him, one day to present us holy and blameless in His sight!

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read Colossians 1:15-23

“Christ over All”

- I. Christ over Creation (v. 15-17)
  - He created everything
  
  - Everything exists for Him
  
  - He holds all things together
  
- II. Christ over the New Creation (v. 18-20)
  - He is the head of the Church
  
  - He is the glory of the new creation
  
  - He is reconciling all things
  
- III. Christ over Us? (v. 21-23)
  - We were His enemies
  
  - We are reconciled to be holy
  
  - We must persevere in the faith

## **Discuss**

- 1) What rights does Jesus have over His creation?
- 2) How does knowing that everything exists for Him change the way you think about your life?
- 3) What are some ways the Church might fail to acknowledge Christ's authority over it?
- 4) When you think about the cross, what comes to mind? How closely does your view match what the Bible says?
- 5) How can we help one another persevere in the faith?