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# Colossians 1

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<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup> To God's holy people in Colossae, the faithful brothers and sisters in Christ:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father.

<sup>3</sup> We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, <sup>4</sup> because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people— <sup>5</sup> the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven and about which you have already heard in the true message of the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. <sup>7</sup> You learned it from Epaphras, our dear fellow servant, who is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, <sup>8</sup> and who also told us of your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, <sup>10</sup> so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, <sup>11</sup> being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, <sup>12</sup> and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. <sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

<sup>15</sup> The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. <sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

<sup>21</sup> Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. <sup>22</sup> But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— <sup>23</sup> if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

<sup>24</sup> Now I rejoice in what I am suffering for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. <sup>25</sup> I have become its servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness— <sup>26</sup> the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the Lord's people. <sup>27</sup> To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

<sup>28</sup> He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. <sup>29</sup> To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me.

# Getting the Most from this Study

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In the midst of our often complicated and chaotic lives we decided to keep this study simple. **One Chapter:** Colossians 1. **One Focus:** Jesus. **One Purpose:** Worship. **One Theme:** Simply Jesus.

## Preparing to Study

Here are a few things you can do to prepare for this study:

1. **Read through Colossians**—Reading the whole book, before we study the parts of the book, gives us context and an understanding of the author's overall purpose for the book. Colossians is only four chapters so it won't take you long. Look for and circle key words such as: will, Jesus, mystery, Christ, God and gospel.
2. **Pray**— Each time you sit down to study, pause to pray. This guide offers a suggested prayer for each week.
3. **Read the Overview of Colossians**—This will give you context for what you are studying in Colossians 1. **The overview begins on page 5.**

## Using this Study Guide

Each week, this guide leads you through a study of Colossians 1 (primarily Col. 1:13-20). Don't try to complete the study in one sitting. You will gain greater insight by sitting with the study over multiple days.

Each week of the study is divided into four sections:

### 1. Meditate and Memorize

We desire that you take some time to simply sit and meditate on the Scripture. We've provided a prayer (or you may choose to come up with one on your own) as well as verses to memorize. Don't let Scripture memory intimidate you— put the verse on a card and carry it with you throughout the day or post it on your mirror (you've got this!).

In this section you will also be directed to a chart on page 33. As you fill this in each week, you will see similarities and patterns in your understanding of Jesus. Don't rush through this. Go slow. Pause. Ponder. Pray.

### 2. Search the Scripture

This section guides you through passages of Scripture that shed light on the verse of the week. Use a trusted translation of the Bible (as opposed to a paraphrase). In this guide, we use the New International Version of the Bible (NIV). **You can find Colossians 1 on page 2.**

Other helpful translations are the English Standard Version (ESV) and the New American Standard Bible (NASB). A good study Bible using any of these translations is also a helpful tool.

### 3. Worship

We always want the outcome of our study to be worship. This section offers a guided time of worship.

### 4. Now What?

We don't want to just know the Bible, we want to live what we learn from the Bible. This section gives you a place to record your application of the passage to your life. Be sure to make it specific and do-able.

# Group Life

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Welcome to community. We were made for life together, but life together can get messy so here are some suggestions to make your time in your group fun, safe and life-changing.

## **Be Attentive**

We live in a loud and distracted world filled with social media, text messages and selfies. For the short time in your group, silence your cell phone and put it away. When someone is sharing, lean in to listen and ask questions. When you share, keep on topic and be concise (not dominating the time) so that others can also share. We always want to be learning from one another, and we learn the most when we listen. Please avoid giving unsolicited advice.

## **Come Prepared**

The emphasis of this time is to know God and to grow in your life with him. When everyone does the homework, the discussion promises to be rich and deep. Pray before you come with an anticipation of what God will do in your group.

## **What This Time Is and Is Not**

We want to create a safe place for everyone to be confident that what they share will not leave the group. This is a time to grow in love for God and for one another. This is not a time to fix one another or give unsolicited advice. This can be a challenge. Be sure that your feedback is: affirming (Thanks for trusting us with your story), empathetic (I've done or thought that) and attentive (can you say more about how that made you feel?).

Avoid feedback that is: condemning (Oh my, I have never heard of anyone doing that), counseling/fixing (You should . . . Have you tried . . . You need to stop . . . ) or all about you (that reminds me of when I was . . .). Also be careful about encouragement that is "too soon." When someone has just suffered pain or deep loss it is usually not the time to tell them that it will all be okay or that "God has a plan" or that this happened to you and it served an amazing purpose in your life. Usually it's best to just say, "I'm so sorry. That is so hard."

**The audio messages that accompany this study**  
are in the iTunes Podcast *Women at Christian Assembly* or on the CA Women's App.

# An Overview of Colossians

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## The Author

Colossians was written by Paul, along with Timothy, who most likely served as Paul's Scribe. Here are some important things to know about Paul:

- Before Paul became a Christian and a leader in the early church, he was zealously religious and a persecutor of Christians (sending some to prison and even to death). His Hebrew name was Saul and he first appears in the Bible in Acts 7:59-8:3. Note: Saul's father was a Roman citizen so he also had the Latin name Paul. In the Bible, he is most often referred to as Paul.
- Paul became a Christian through an encounter with the resurrected Jesus on a journey to persecute Christians (Acts 9:1-31).
- When Paul came to a saving understanding of Jesus as the true Messiah he was baptized (Acts 9:18) and began preaching the gospel (Acts 9:20). The book of Acts records Paul's missionary journeys as he preached and established Christian Churches.
- Paul wrote 13 books in the New Testament. All of them are letters that he wrote to churches or individuals. Some were written from prison where Paul was incarcerated for his faith and public ministry. Paul was likely in prison when he wrote the letter to the Colossians.

## The Church at Colossae

The book of Colossians is a letter written by Paul to the church at Colossae. Here is what is important to know about this church:

- Most likely Paul had not visited this church (Col. 2:1).
- It seems the church was established by Epaphras who Paul mentions in the letter (Col. 1:7-8; 4:12-13). Epaphras was probably a Colossian who traveled to nearby Ephesus and heard Paul's proclamation of the gospel and then placed his faith in Christ (see Acts 19:10).
- Most scholars believe that the Colossae church was made up primarily of gentile converts (those who were not Jewish).
- The church was facing some form of false teaching (Colossians 2).

## The Purpose of Colossians

It appears that Paul was writing to encourage the Colossae church to resist some kind of false teaching (Col. 2:4, 8, 16, 18) and to hold to Jesus as the central focus of their faith. Paul also wanted to give them the necessary resources to be fully mature in Christ (Col. 1:28) and to resist this false teaching.

Most likely the false teaching was a form of spirituality claiming to be Christian and emphasizing rituals, ascetic practices, angel worship and visions (Col. 2:16-17, 18-19, 20-23). This teaching (or teachings) also appears to have called into question the sufficiency of Christ. In response, Paul wanted the Colossae Christians to be confident that Christ was their life and that they were securely hidden in him (Col. 2:1-4).

## The Gospel

A theme in Colossians and throughout Paul's writings is the gospel. Although the word *gospel* only appears three times in this book, it is evident that Paul is contending for Jesus as the central focus of the gospel and for a gospel life lived in the power of Jesus (Col. 1:9-2:5, 17, 3:1-4).

The gospel the Colossians heard was the true gospel and it was bearing fruit and growing throughout the world (Col. 1:5-6). The word *gospel* is best translated, "life-altering good news." The life-altering good news the Colossians heard was the revelation that Jesus is the fulfillment of the hope proclaimed in the Old Testament and that this hope was for the Gentiles as well as for the Jew (Col. 1:25-28, 2:2-3).

At the heart of the gospel is the grace of God that brings about our salvation (Col. 1:3-6). To be a

Christian is to believe and to apply this gospel to our lives. Here is the core of the gospel message depicted throughout the Bible (see [Lifein6words.com](http://Lifein6words.com) for a complete explanation).

1. **God created us to be with him** (Genesis 1-2). In the earliest account of creation, the man and woman are *with* God. Jesus is given the name, Immanuel, which means “God with us” (Matthew 1:23). And John 1:14 says that God, in Christ, “became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” We were created for a relationship *with* God for now and forever.
2. **Our sin separates us from God** (Genesis 3). The Bible tells us this about sin: **(a)** Everyone sins and falls short of God’s glory (Romans 3:21-24); **(b)** the consequence of sin is death—physical and spiritual separation from God (Romans 6:26; Genesis 3:22-24); **(c)** Sin is expressed in not believing God (Genesis 2:15-17, 3:17; Romans 1:25); **(d)** Sin opposes all that is right, good and true in God. **(e)** At the heart of sin is idolatry—making something other than God the ultimate object of our affections, believing it to give us purpose, control, safety and worth (Exodus 20:1-3).
3. **Sin’s stain and consequence cannot be removed by good deeds** (Genesis 4-Malachi 4). Since the beginning, humans believed that they could remove the stain and destruction of sin by doing more good deeds than bad deeds. But, this is an impossible effort. All have sinned and all fall short of God’s glory and his righteous standard (Psalm 51:1-6; Isaiah 53:6, 64:6, Romans 3:23). Our salvation is not attained by good works but by God’s grace (Ephesians 1:1-10).
4. **Paying the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again** (Matthew-Luke). Because Jesus was perfectly human and perfectly God he was able to live the life we could not live (perfect righteousness) and to die the death that was necessary for our freedom from sin (the offering of his life as a perfect sacrifice, paying the redemptive price for sin by his death). 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” Ultimately, in his life, death and resurrection, Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of the Angel who declared, “he will save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).
5. **Everyone who trusts in Jesus alone has eternal life** (John). The Bible says that “all who receive Jesus, and believe in his name, God gives the right to become children of God” (John 1:12). To believe in Jesus’ name is to believe in who he is — Savior from sin, rescuer from darkness, giver of eternal life, the one true God (Romans 5:8-9; Colossians 1:13-14; John 3:16, 14:6-11).
6. **Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever** (Acts-Revelation). Eternal life begins the moment we place our faith and trust in Jesus as our savior and God. At the moment of salvation we are made children of God (John 1:12) and share in all the benefits of Christ (Ephesians 1:3-14).

**If you would like to become a Christian** you can offer a simple prayer of belief like this:

God, thank you for sending Jesus to save me from my sin and for offering me a new life in him.  
Jesus, I receive you as my Savior and the Lord of my life.  
I know that this gift of salvation is not a result of anything that I have done.  
It is because of what you have done for me through your life, death and resurrection.  
I am so thankful for your grace—this kind, generous, unmerited gift  
— that I can now live in you, through you and for you.  
Amen.

**If you prayed this prayer** we’d like to send you some resources to help you along your new journey of faith in Jesus. Please email [cheryl@cachurch.com](mailto:cheryl@cachurch.com).

# Christ in You, the Hope of Glory

Colossians 1



## notes from the message

Use this page to record notes from the opening talk.

[To watch or listen to this talk, go to iTunes podcasts and search for "Women at Christian Assembly". For easy access to the video, install the CA Women App that is available for Apple and Android devices].

## **Group Discussion**

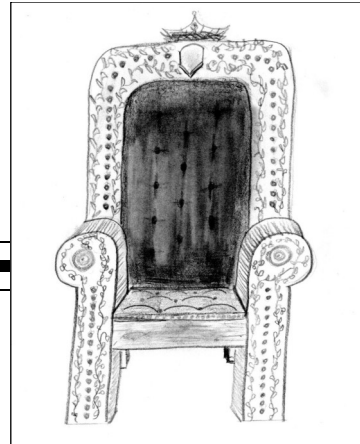
You might love or hate this exercise but we ask that you lean in and see what you might learn about yourself and those in your group.

**Take a few minutes to draw your spiritual journey** (it can be simple stick figures and lines).



# Jesus is our King

Colossians 1:13



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## Meditate and Memorize

Each week we encourage you to begin your time with a prayer and then meditation upon the Scripture. Our hope is to memorize Colossians 1:13-20 by the end of the session so each week we add a new verse to the previous verses. This week you only have one verse: Colossians 1:13.

### A Prayer for Meditation

O Jesus, you are King of Kings and Lord of Lords.  
At your name every knee will bow and every tongue confess that you are God.  
You are a powerful King, above all rule and authority, knowledge and dominion.  
You are a generous King, you have blessed me with every spiritual blessing.  
You are a compassionate King, you touched the unclean leper and you reach out to touch me.  
You are an all-knowing, everywhere present King.  
You are my King.  
Forgive me for seeking to be the ruler of my life and the lives of those around me.  
Today, I give you my life.  
Today, I give you all of my concerns.  
Today, I give you the circumstances and people and futures that I cannot control.  
Today, I rest in your authority, your rule, your power.  
Today, I declare afresh: You are my King.  
King of Kings.  
Lord of Lords.  
Worthy of my adoration and praise.  
Worthy of my life. I love you.  
Amen.

### A Scripture to Memorize

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,  
**Colossians 1:13**

### Reflect on Colossians 1:13

Go to the chart on page 33 and enter the dictionary definition of the word king as well as your observations about what it means that Jesus is your king. For example: Because Jesus is king he is ruler of my life. But don't stop there—what else does this mean?

## **Search the Scripture**

Draw, yes, draw Colossians 1:13 right here (stick figures are always acceptable).

**Record what these Scriptures teach about what we are rescued from, as well as their teaching on the dominion of darkness?**

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 (with Romans 1:16-32)

John 3:18-20, 12:46

Acts 26:17-18 (This is Jesus speaking to Paul, the author of Colossians)

1 Peter 2:9-10

**Record what these Scriptures reveal about Jesus' Kingdom.**

Romans 14:17

1 Corinthians 4:20

John 18:36

Matthew 13:44-46

## Worship

**1. Keep it real.** The reality that Jesus is our king, and the king above all kings, gives us reason to worship him. As you enter into a time of worshiping the greatness of Jesus our king, pause to ask him to show you the things that are bringing you anxiety and fear today. List those things here.

**2. Meditate upon these verses.**

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**2 Timothy 4:18**

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe . . .

**Hebrews 12:28**

**3. Release to your king, Jesus, everything that brings anxiety and/or fear.** Sit with your palms facing down as you imagine releasing all of your anxiety and fear to God. When you are finished, turn your palms up as a symbol of receiving the presence of God into your life today.

**4. Listen (and sing!)**

Take a moment and listen to this beautiful song of worship: **We Will Not Be Shaken** with Bryan Johnson [<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ykLMiIX1CU>]

## What Now?

When we study the Scripture we don't just want to know it, we want to be transformed by it. We want not only to know God's word, but to live God's word. This is the space to apply the Scripture to your life. It is helpful to record an application that is specific and do-able (i.e. I will demonstrate that I trust Jesus to be the king of my life and those near to me by not giving unsolicited advise to my neighbor about her parenting. By, Tuesday, I will apologize to my neighbor for the unsolicited advise I have given and ask for her forgiveness).

**How will you live differently this week because Jesus is your king?**

**notes from the message**  
Jesus is our King



# Jesus is our Redeemer

Colossians 1:14



## Meditate and Memorize

Each week we encourage you to begin your time with a prayer and then meditation upon the Scripture. Our hope is to memorize Colossians 1:13-20 by the end of the session so each week we add a new verse to the previous verses. This week we add verse 14.

### A Prayer for Meditation

Jesus, I praise you today because, as the Scripture tells me,  
My salvation is free to me — grace, grace and more grace.  
But, it came at a great cost to you.  
You paid the price to redeem my life by your blood shed on the cross.  
I praise you for living the life I could not live (perfection) and dying the death  
I could not die (the perfect substitution—absorbing the wrath of God  
so that I would not have to). You were raised to life so that I too will have a resurrection.  
You who had no sin, became sin, so that in you I could become the righteousness of God.  
Grace. Grace. More Grace.  
I love you Jesus. You alone are my redeemer.  
Amen.

### A Scripture to Memorize

<sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,  
<sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

**Colossians 1:13-14**

### Reflect on Colossians 1:14

Go to the chart on page 33 and enter the dictionary definition of the word redeemer as well as your observations about what it means that Jesus is our redeemer. Be sure to take a few minutes to simply meditate on the chart and who Jesus is to you today.

*Redemption taps into a key New Testament image of the effects of Jesus' death on those who belong to him. The language (in Colossians) would have brought to mind in the first century the transaction by which a slave paid a price to secure his or her release from slavery. Christ came to "redeem" sinners from their slavery to sin by offering his own life as a "ransom".*

**The Pillar Commentary on Colossians**

## Search the Scripture

According to Col. 1:14 when will we receive redemption and why do you think this matter?

What do the following passages reveal about the problem of sin and God's provision?

Scripture	Problem of Sin	God's Provision
Romans 3:23-26		
Romans 5:12-19		
Romans 6:20-23		
Ephesians 2:1-10		

What do the following passages reveal about redemption?

Psalm 49:7-15 (with Galatians 3:13-14 and 2 Corinthians 5:21)

Titus 2:11-14

I Peter 1:17-21

## Worship

Hymns speak to our mind and our heart. It is a beautiful practice of worship to sing hymns and meditate upon their words. The Scripture tells us that “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (Hebrews 9:22b) and that Christ’s death and resurrection bring us into relationship with God (Romans 8; 1 Corinthians 15). This is redemption — to be ransomed from slavery into freedom by the price of Jesus’ shed blood.

In 1707 Isaac Watts wrote a hymn based on Galatians 6:14, “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” The hymn is *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*. Watts was always a very weak child and later had to resign from the pastorate at a young age because of his failing health. He spent almost 30 years as an invalid but dedicated himself to writing hymns.

**Take 5-10 minutes to meditate upon this hymn.** You can sing along or just listen by finding the hymn on YouTube (Search for the version by Kathryn Scott: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLXx2CJ\\_drs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLXx2CJ_drs))

### When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross. On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss. And pour contempt on all my pride.  
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood.  
See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?  
Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

## What Now?

When we study the Scripture we don’t just want to know it, we want to be transformed by it. We want not only to know God’s word, but to live God’s word. This is the space to apply the Scripture to your life. It is helpful to record an application that is specific and do-able.

### How will you live differently this week because Jesus is your redeemer?

Is there a sin you need to confess? Is there a person you need to forgive (in the same gracious way you have been forgiven by God)? Is there a person you need to approach and ask for forgiveness?

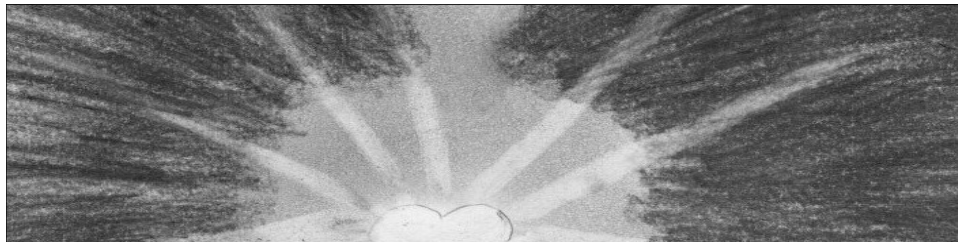
**notes from the message**  
Jesus is our Redeemer





# Jesus is our God

Colossians 1:15



## Meditate and Memorize

Each week we encourage you to begin your time with a prayer and then meditation upon the Scripture. Our hope is to memorize Colossians 1:13-20 by the end of the session so each week we add a new verse to the previous verses. This week we add verse 15.

### A Prayer for Meditation

Today I worship you, Jesus, because you are God and there is no other God before you.  
You come with power and rule with a mighty arm.  
You tend to me like a shepherd and you carry me close to your heart.  
To whom can I compare you?  
You are Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
You are one, yet three. You are three, yet one.  
You are a mystery and yet knowable and near. Infinite, yet intimate.  
Your name is Immanuel, meaning God with us—God with me!  
Thank you for your nearness.  
Thank you that you are the visible image of the invisible God. You make God known!  
Thank you that if I have seen you, I have seen God.  
I love you. I need you. I worship you.  
Amen.

### A Scripture to Memorize

- <sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness  
and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,  
<sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.  
<sup>15</sup> The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

**Colossians 1:13-15**

### Reflect on Colossians 1:15

Go to the chart on page 33 and enter the dictionary definition of the word God as well as your observations about what it means that Jesus is our God. Be sure to take a few minutes to simply meditate on the chart and who Jesus is to you today.

#### **What does it mean that Jesus is the *firstborn over all creation*?**

Christians believe, as the Nicene Creed affirms, that “Jesus Christ (is) . . . true God from true God, begotten, not made . . . of one Being with the Father.”

Colossians 1:15 affirms the pre-eminence of Jesus. The word “firstborn” in this context is understood to mean that Jesus is supreme over all of creation.

## **Search the Scripture**

**The Old and New Testament say that no one has seen God, but Jesus makes him known (Exodus 33:17-20; John 1:18). What do the following passages reveal about Jesus our God?**

Hebrews 1:1-3

John 1:1-5, 14-18 (Exodus 33:17-20)

John 14:5-11

Colossians 1:19

Titus 2:13 (with 2 Peter 1:1, Romans 9:1-5)

Matthew 1:20-23

## **Worship**

A helpful tool for worship is always the Scriptures. Take 10-15 minutes to put yourself in the event recorded in **John 20:24-31**. Imagine first that you are the disciples who have seen Jesus, then imagine that you are Jesus and, finally, imagine that you are Thomas. Record what you think each of these people are feeling, wondering and experiencing.

**The Disciples** (minus Thomas)

**Jesus**

**Thomas**

**What does this passage ultimately tell you about Jesus?**

After recording your observations, pause to worship Jesus by declaring the words of Thomas in John 20:28.

## **What Now?**

When we study the Scripture we don't just want to know it, we want to be transformed by it. We want not only to know God's word, but to live God's word. This is the space to apply the Scripture to your life. It is helpful to record an application that is specific and do-able.

**How will you live differently this week because Jesus is your God?**

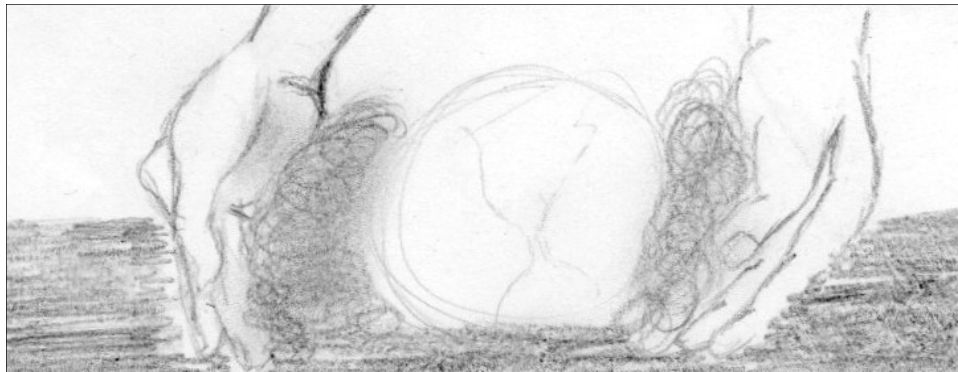
Is there an idol you need to turn from (remember idols are not just statues but they are anything—even good things — that we make ultimate in our life. And idol is something we expect to make our life work and to give us the value that only comes from God).

**notes from the message**  
Jesus is our God



# Jesus is our Creator

Colossians 1:16-17



## Meditate and Memorize

Each week we encourage you to begin your time with a prayer and then meditation upon the Scripture. Our hope is to memorize Colossians 1:13-20 by the end of the session so each week we add a new verse to the previous verses. This week we add verses 16-17.

### A Prayer for Meditation

Jesus, you are my creator.  
All things were created in you, through you and for you.  
You existed before all things, and you will exist for all eternity.  
With your power and creativity you bring all things into being.  
I worship you because your glory is on display in your creation —  
in Saturn and Mars, in the bougainvillea and the towering sequoias,  
in the snow leopard and the giant panda, in the pacific ocean and the Swiss Alps.  
You are a God who makes all things beautiful.  
I worship you, my creator.  
I cannot believe that I am yours.  
What joy to be made through you and for you.  
I love you.  
Amen.

### A Scripture to Memorize

<sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.  
<sup>15</sup> The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.  
<sup>16</sup> For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities;  
all things have been created through him and for him.  
<sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

**Colossians 1:13-17**

### Reflect on Colossians 1:16-17

Go to the chart on page 34 and enter the dictionary definition of the word creator as well as your observations about what it means that Jesus is our creator. Be sure to take a few minutes to simply meditate on the chart and who Jesus is to you today.

## Search the Scripture

What do the following passages tell you about Jesus, the creator?

John 1:1-3 [Note the “word” here refers to Jesus; see John 1:14-18]

I Corinthians 8:6

Hebrews 1:1-3

**Colossians 1:16-17 teaches that all things were created “in,” “through” and “for” Christ. What do you think it means that all things were created . . .**

In Christ —

Through Christ —

For Christ —

What holds the universe together is not an idea or a virtue, but a person: the resurrected Christ. Without him, electrons would not continue to circle nuclei, gravity would cease to work, the planets would not stay in their orbits.

**The Pillar New Testament Commentary**

## Worship

In the Scripture, the consideration of creation often leads to worship. For your worship practice this week, put yourself in nature (go to a park, drive to the ocean, hike along a stream or up a mountain). If you don't have time to go to nature, observe the nature that is around you: the sky, the clouds, or a simple house plant.

As you observe what Jesus has made, silently (or out loud) tell him what this teaches you about him.

Here are some Scripture to guide your time.

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.  
They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them.  
Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.  
In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

### Psalm 19:1-4

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!  
You have set your glory in the heavens.

Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold  
against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,  
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,  
human beings that you care for them?

You have made them a little lower than the angels  
and crowned them with glory and honor.

You made them rulers over the works of your hands;  
you put everything under their feet:

all flocks and herds, and the animals of the wild,  
the birds in the sky, and the fish in the sea,  
all that swim the paths of the seas.

LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

### Psalm 8

## What Now?

When we study the Scripture we don't just want to know it, we want to be transformed by it. We want not only to know God's word, but to live God's word. This is the space to apply the Scripture to your life. It is helpful to record an application that is specific and do-able.

### How will you live differently this week because Jesus is your creator?

The one who creates an object has the best understanding of its purpose. In this case, Jesus created more than an object, he created humans. He created you. What might you do this week to acknowledge him as the one who knows best your purpose? What/who are you letting define you apart from Jesus? What did Jesus make you for that you need to start doing? What did he *not* make you for that you need to stop doing?

# notes from the message

Jesus is our Creator





# Jesus is Supreme

Colossians 1:18-19



## Meditate and Memorize

Each week we encourage you to begin your time with a prayer and then meditation upon the Scripture. Our hope is to memorize Colossians 1:13-20 by the end of the session so each week we add a new verse to the previous verses. This week we add verse 18-19.

### A Prayer for Meditation

Jesus, you are supreme over all of creation.  
You are a great God! A mighty God! God above all other gods!  
There is none like you.  
Holy. Righteous. Healer. Redeemer. King. Creator.  
Friend. Savior. Lord. Eternal.  
Compassionate. Gracious. Slow to anger. Abounding in love.  
The resurrection and the life. The Son of God.  
The perfect lamb of God who comes to take away the sins of the world.  
Humble—you became a man.  
Obedient—you died on the cross for my sins.  
Servant—you washed your followers feet as a demonstration of love.  
Present—you are here and everywhere.  
Knowing— before a thought comes to my mind, you know it.  
You alone deserve first place in my mind and heart and life.  
To you, I surrender all.  
Amen.

### A Scripture to Memorize

<sup>13</sup> For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.  
<sup>15</sup> The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.  
<sup>16</sup> For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.  
<sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.  
<sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.  
<sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,  
**Colossians 1:13-19**

### Reflect on Colossians 1:18-19

Go to the chart on page 34 and enter the dictionary definition of the word supreme as well as your observations about what it means that Jesus is supreme. Be sure to take a few minutes to simply meditate on the chart and who Jesus is to you today.

## **Search the Scripture**

**What do these passages teach about the supremacy of Christ?**

Colossians 1:13-23

Colossians 2:9-15

Colossians 3:1-4

Acts 2:36

Philippians 2:5-11

**In Colossians 1:18, Paul connects Christ's supremacy to his resurrection.  
What does I Corinthians 15:16-28 reveal about the significance of Jesus' resurrection?**

## Worship

When we sit to be with Jesus and worship him, it is sometimes helpful to read the Scripture in different translations (you can do this easily at [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)). Take a moment to meditate on the end of Colossians 1:18 in these different translations:

. . . so that in everything Jesus might have the supremacy. (NIV)

. . . that in everything Jesus might be preeminent. (ESV)

. . . so that Jesus Himself will come to have first place in everything. (NASB)

. . . Jesus is supreme in the end. From beginning to end he's there, towering far above everything, everyone. (The Message)

**Acknowledge** Jesus as supreme over all things.

**Confess** to him the places in your life that he does not have first place.

**Invite** Jesus to be supreme in every area of your life.

**Be still**, and see him as supreme and preeminent and first in all things.

**Offer** him your worship, your adoration, your praise.

**Record** your prayer here.

## What Now?

When we study the Scripture we don't just want to know it, we want to be transformed by it. We want not only to know God's word, but to live God's word. This is the space to apply the Scripture to your life. It is helpful to record an application that is specific and do-able.

**How will you live differently this week because Jesus is supreme?**

Is there a person, circumstance, fear or ritual that you are letting have first place in your life? What would it look like this week to give God the supremacy in a particular area of your life?

**notes from the message**  
Jesus is Supreme



# Jesus is our Reconciler

Colossians 1:20



## Meditate and Memorize

Each week we encourage you to begin your time with a prayer and then meditation upon the Scripture. Our hope is to memorize Colossians 1:13-20 by the end of the session, so each week we add a new verse to the previous verses. This week we add verse 20.

### A Prayer for Meditation

Jesus, you make all things right.  
Because of your work of reconciliation I can belong to God.  
What joy! What grace!  
Because of your gift of reconciliation I want to be reconciled to those I have wounded.  
Give me courage to seek forgiveness.  
Give me kindness to extend forgiveness.  
Thank you for your great love and compassion.  
Thank you that while I was still in my sin, you died for me.  
Thank you that you see me and you know me.  
I need you. I love you. I long to live with you and for you.  
Amen.

### A Scripture to Memorize

<sup>13</sup>For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.  
<sup>15</sup>The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.  
<sup>16</sup>For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.  
<sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.  
<sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.  
<sup>19</sup>For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup>and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

**Colossians 1:13-20**

### Reflect on Colossians 1:20

Go to the chart on page 34 and enter the dictionary definition of the word reconciler/reconcile as well as your observations about what it means that Jesus reconciles us to God (consider reading Col. 1:20-23). Be sure to take a few minutes to simply meditate on the chart and who Jesus is to you today.

## Search the Scripture

What do the following passages reveal about reconciliation?

Scripture	Why do we need reconciliation?	How was reconciliation accomplished?	What does reconciliation do?
Colossians 1:19-22			
Ephesians 2:1-18			
Romans 5:1-11			

## **Worship**

### **Settling into Worship**

1. Set aside 10 minutes for worship, sitting in a comfortable position.
2. Intentionally acknowledge the reality of God's presence with you.
3. One of the gifts of reconciliation is peace with God. Set your mind upon these words of Jesus in **Luke 14:27**:

**Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.  
I do not give to you as the world gives.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.**

4. Take time to be quiet. It is normal to be distracted in this time. Pay attention to why these distractions are present, and then simply offer them in prayer to God.
5. Imagine God's peace washing over you.
6. Remember that reconciliation is a gift, accomplished by the shedding of Christ's blood. Offer your gratitude to Jesus.
7. Do not rush to your amen. Just sit, even if you have no more to say. Rest. Know that God is with you.

If you desire, use this space to write your thoughts and prayer.

## **What Now?**

When we study the Scripture we don't just want to know it, we want to be transformed by it. We want not only to know God's word, but to live God's word. This is the space to apply the Scripture to your life. It is helpful to record an application that is specific and do-able.

### **How will you live differently this week because Jesus is your Reconciler**

Consider 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 as you make your application.

**notes from the message**  
Jesus is our Reconciler





## Because Jesus is . . .

<b>King</b> [Enter the dictionary definition here]	<b>He is . . .</b>	<b>I am/am not . . .</b>	<b>I will . . .</b>
<b>Redeemer</b>	<b>He is . . .</b>	<b>I am/am not . . .</b>	<b>I will . . .</b>
<b>God</b>	<b>He is . . .</b>	<b>I am/am not . . .</b>	<b>I will . . .</b>

**Because Jesus is . . .**

<b>Creator</b>	<b>He is . . .</b>	<b>I am/am not . . .</b>	<b>I will . . .</b>
<b>Supreme</b>	<b>He is . . .</b>	<b>I am/am not . . .</b>	<b>I will . . .</b>
<b>Reconciler</b>	<b>He is . . .</b>	<b>I am/am not . . .</b>	<b>I will . . .</b>

# People in my Group



# Prayer Requests

