

# “HE IS ‘NUMBER ONE’ IN EVERYTHING”

## COLOSSIANS 1:18-20

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### INTRODUCTION

This passage—vv. 15-20—is one of the most profound in all Scripture. Here Paul exalts our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. In verse 18 Paul states that Christ must have the **preeminence—come to have first place—IN EVERYTHING.**

- 1) Already we have seen His preeminence in Creation and Providence—vv. 16-17
- 2) Now we see His preeminence in Redemption—Spiritual Creation—vv. 18-20.

**Competitiveness—the desire to be Number One, desire to win** is a challenge to many; can lead to many hurt feelings and conflicts.

But Christ Must be number one due to his nature and work. He is God and He is Savior.

- We have not contributed to the reality of His being first place in everything.
- The big question is, “Is Christ number one in my/your life?”
- Is He on the throne of your heart? Is He in control or are you?

### CHRIST MUST BE NUMBER ONE—HAVE FIRST PLACE—IN YOUR LIFE.

- I. HE IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH (18).
  - A. His Position—“Head of the body—the Church”
    1. Meaning of “head”
      - a. Ruling Head—exercises control
      - b. Organic head—brings life
    2. Idea of “body”
      - a. The Church is “a living organism, composed of members joined vitally to one another.
      - b. Each member has a place, gifts, and responsibilities
      - c. The Church is “the means by which Christ carries out his purposes and performs his work.
      - d. The union that exists between Christ and his people is most intimate and real.
    3. Identity of “church”—the assembly of those called out to fulfill God’s purposes.
      - Universal for the most part in Ephesians and Colossians.
      - Local mostly in the NT and in Col. 4:15, 16.
  - B. His Means to this position—“the Beginning, the Firstborn from the dead”
    1. “Beginning”
      - a. Priority in Time
      - b. Ruler
      - c. Creative initiative
    2. “Firstborn”—cf. “firstborn in v. 15 of creation”
      - a. Emphasis here is **priority in time**
      - b. But “firstborn,” as in v. 15, always conveys **Superiority.**
        - His body was literally dead.
        - He came “out from” the “dead ones”—where the corpses are.
        - He is the promise of all the rest who will rise.
        - He is the powerful One who will actually raise the others—some to life, some to judgment.
  - C. The Purpose for His position—“That in all things He might have the pre-eminence, be first, have 1<sup>st</sup> place.”
    1. “**He**” is very emphatic—He Himself, no one else!
    2. He “became” such—the result of His incarnation and work of redemption.

3. He now has first place in EVERYTHING—all the realm of creation and all the realm of redemption.
    - The church is not to be autonomous.
    - The individual Christian is not to be autonomous.
- II. THE WAY HE BECAME THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH (19-20).
- A. It was God's determination—His pleasure, His will (19).
  - B. God in His Fullness took up residency in Him. (19)
    - Compare 2:9—all the fullness of Deity dwells in Him.
    - Notice the double emphasis: "**all**," "**fullness**."
    - This is a permanent dwelling, not a temporary residence.
    - This residency took place at the Incarnation—Jn. 1:14.
    - As God Himself the fullness of deity was always His—see v. 15, 17a; Jn. 1:1.
    - Today in Heaven the fullness of deity is still in the divine/human Christ.
  - C. God through Him reconciled all things to Him. (20)
    1. The Meaning of **Reconciliation**—"from hostility to friendship"
      - a. Word only here, v. 20, and Eph. 2:16; a similar word appears several other times in NT.
      - b. A double compound—to restore back, thoroughly.
    2. The agent of reconciliation—Through Him, Christ; "through Him" **stressed twice**.
    3. The direction of Reconciliation—To Him, or to Himself [Son or Father]
    4. The extent of Reconciliation—**ALL THINGS—the same "all things" of vv. 16-17**
      - a. Things in Earth
        - Includes humans—those who are redeemed and saved.
        - Must include the rest of creation also—see Rom 8:19ff.
      - b. Things in Heaven
        - Must be just as broad as v. 16—all heavenly bodies.
        - Must in some sense include the angels.
      - c. Does not bring salvation to the lost humans or the fallen angels, but will involve their complete submission to God and no longer active rebellion; see I Co. 15:27-28; Phil. 2:9-10.
  - D. The Means/Cause of Reconciliation is the Redemptive work of the Cross.
    1. God "made/worked peace"—peace with God
      - a. God's righteous anger has been pacified—Rom. 5:1.
      - b. A secondary sense involves the soul of the believer being at peace with God—no more hostile (see vv. 21-22).
      - c. Another secondary sense is the harmony among believers.
      - d. A final secondary sense is the peace worked eventually in all creation.
    2. Christ shed His blood, paid the full penalty for sin
      - This penalty is death.
      - Not merely any death—but sacrificial, and bloody.

## CONCLUSION

"All Fullness" has taken up its permanent residency in Christ. **Christ is fully God—He is the God/Man.**

In Christ the World has been reconciled to God. **But, are you reconciled to God?** [Be saved!]

Christ has come to have **first place** in everything. **Does He have first place in your life?** Does He sit on your throne? [Full Surrender; let Him have the full Lordship of your life].

**CHRIST MUST BE NUMBER ONE—HAVE FIRST PLACE—IN YOUR LIFE.**