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# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**Colossians 1:15-20**  
**Lesson #5**  
**Jesus' Domain**  
**02/22/2026**

1

## “Christ is enough”

*1:2*  
 Paul personifies a life of peace, and power in the midst of suffering.

*1:3-8*  
 Paul praises God for a faith, hope, & love response to the Gospel.

*1:9-14*  
 Paul petitions God for a full and proper understanding of God's inheritance - both the WORD and the WAY of the CROSS.

**1:9-15-20**  
**Paul punctuates God's glory**  
**in a call to worship at the revelation**  
**of the majesty / dominion**  
**of Jesus Christ.**

2

## “Jesus is Lord of all.”

*Colossians 1*

“15 And he is the **image of the invisible God**, the first-born of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — **all things have been created by him and for him**. 17 And he is before all things, and in him **all things hold together**. 18 He is also **head of the body, the church**; and he is the beginning, the **first-born from the dead**; so that he himself might come to have first place in everything. 19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for **all the fullness to dwell in him**, 20 and through him to **reconcile all things to himself, having made peace through the blood of his cross**; through him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.”

3

*Colossians 1:15-20*  
*Interpretive Paraphrase*

“As the Image of God, Jesus is Creator and Head (manager) over all things in heaven and earth, for the glory of God. He is also Head of the church, which is made up of people who, as the Body of Christ, bear God's Image and are called to exercise stewardship of God's purposes in this world. Jesus has purified and reconciled all things through his blood sacrifice and his resurrection from the dead, which is the first glimpse of the actualization of God's final purpose.”

4

## Is Jesus Lord of all?

**Has Jesus become little more than a poster boy for other things?**



**EXPERIENCE**  
Spirit centered



**ETHICS**  
Society centered



**EVENT**  
Sacrament centered



**EXPOSITION**  
Scripture centered

5

## Is Jesus Lord of all or just of our brand of Christianity?

**Christ FOR us**  
Getting people into heaven.



**Christ IN us**  
Getting people filled with the Spirit.



**Christ THROUGH us**  
Getting people to reform the world.



**What is the “main thing”?**

6

## Is Jesus Lord of all This was a challenge for the early church.

*Corinthians 1*

"11 For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, ... that there are **quarrels among you**. 12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "**I am of Paul**", and "**I of Apollos**," and "**I of Cephas**," and "**I of Christ**." 13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?"

**A healthy church should be  
as narrow as the Gospel of Christ  
and as broad as the Body of Christ.**

7

## "Jesus is Lord of all."

*Colossians 1*

"15 And he is the **image of the invisible God**, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — **all things have been created by him and for him**. 17 And he is **before all things**, and in Him **all things hold together**."

**Jesus is the "firstborn" = "at the head of  
and preeminent as Lord over"**

*Ps.89:27*

"I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth."

*Col.1:18*

"firstborn from the dead"



8

## "Jesus is Lord of all."

*Colossians 1*

"18 He is also **head of the body, the church**; and he is the beginning, the **firstborn from the dead**; so that he himself might come to have first place in everything. 19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for **all the fulness to dwell in him**, 20 and through Him to **reconcile all things to himself, having made peace through the blood of his cross**; through him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven."

**Jesus Christ is our light of life (image of God)**

**Jesus Christ is our (imputed) righteousness**

**Jesus Christ is the elect of all who believe**

**Jesus Christ is present as the church**

**Jesus Christ is our living hope**

9

## The "IN CHRIST" package

*Ephesians 1 (this is one sentence in the Greek text)*

"3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places **in Christ**, 4 just as He chose us **in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love 5 He predestined us to adoption as sons **through Jesus Christ** to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, 6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us **in the Beloved**. 7 **In Him** we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, 8 which He lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight 9 He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed **in Him** 10 with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things **in Christ**, things in the heavens and things upon the earth. **In Him** 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, 12 to the end that we who were the first to hope **in Christ** should be to the praise of His glory. 13 **In Him**, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed **in Him** with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."

10

## Jesus is Lord of all!

*Galatians 4:7 (Rom.8:17, Eph.3:6)*

"So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are his child, **God has made you also an heir**."

**What do we inherit "in Christ" as a Christian?**

redeemed through His blood (Eph 1:7)

reconciled to God (2 Cor 5:18-19)

access to the Father (Eph 2:18)

adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)

every spiritual blessing (Eph 1:3)

sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13)

wisdom and righteousness (1 Cor 1:30)

free from slavery to sin (Rom 6)

citizen of God's Kingdom (Eph 2:1)

sanctified in Him (1 Cor 1:2, 30)

God's workmanship (Eph 2:10)

built into a holy temple (Eph 2:21-22)

forgiven (Col 1:14)

chosen (Eph 1:4)

beloved (Rom 1:7)

child of God (Gal 3:26)

true liberty (Gal 5:1)

Christ dwells within (Gal 2:20)

a new creation (2 Cor 5:17)

one body with Christ (1 Cor 12:12)

peace with God (Rom 5:1)

no condemnation (Rom 8:1)

declared righteous (Rom 5:1)

an heir with Christ (Rom 8:17)

11

## Jesus is Lord of all!

**What is our calling as disciples of Jesus?**

*1 Peter 2:21 (Rom.8:30, 1Cor.1:9, 1 Thess.2:12, etc.)*

"For **to this you have been called**, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps."

**We are called to be fully human, created in God's Image to reflect His nature (morally) by loving those He loves and being stewards of His creation.**

**As sinners we all fall short of God's glory and our calling.**

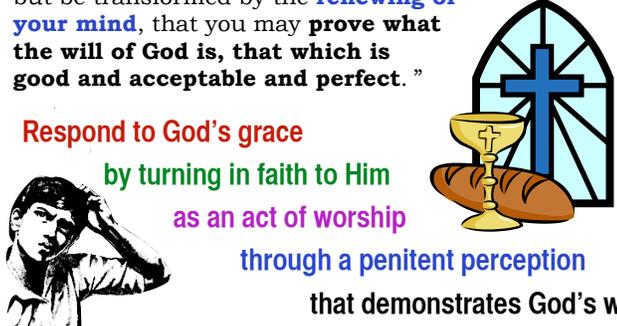
**The Gospel message tells us that Christ came to  
1) expose our sinful nature, 2) redeem us from its fate,  
and 3) empower us to live lives that bear witness to God.**

12

*Romans 12*

“1 I urge you therefore, brethren, **by the mercies of God**, to **present your bodies** a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is **your spiritual service of worship**. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**, that you may **prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**”

**Respond to God's grace**  
by turning in faith to Him  
as an act of worship  
through a penitent perception  
that demonstrates God's will.



13

**Ephesians (a commentary on Colossians)**

<b>Our wealth in Christ</b> ch. 1-3	<b>Our walk in Christ</b> ch. 4-6
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He is first concerned that we see our **INHERITANCE and HOPE.** He prays that we will “get it”

He is then concerned that we see our **FAMILY and LOVE.** He prays that we will “give it”

He is finally concerned that we have courage **PERSEVERANCE and WITNESS.**

14

**Ephesians (a commentary on Colossians)**

<b>Our wealth in Christ</b> ch. 1-3	<b>Our walk in Christ</b> ch. 4-6
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*1:18-19*

“18 I pray that the **eyes of your heart may be enlightened**, so that you may know what is the **hope** of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His **inheritance** in the saints, 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His **power** toward us who believe. . . .”

15

**Ephesians (a commentary on Colossians)**

<b>Our wealth in Christ</b> ch. 1-3	<b>Our walk in Christ</b> ch. 4-6
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*3:14-19*

“14 For this reason, **I bow my knees before the Father**, 15 from whom every **family** in heaven and on earth derives its name, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be **strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man**; 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; and that you, being rooted and grounded in **love**, 18 may be able to **comprehend** with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to **know the love of Christ** which surpasses knowledge, that you may be **filled up to all the fulness of God.**”

16

*Romans 8:16*

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and **if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be **glorified with Him.**”

**JESUS CHRIST for me, in & through me**

*Ephesians 2*

“8 For **by grace you have been saved through faith**; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”



17

**“work out your salvation”**

The pattern of Paul's letters

<b>What Christ has done for &amp; in us.</b>  <b>Our position in Christ by grace through faith</b> Affirmation	<b>What Christ is doing in and through us.</b>  <b>Our behavior in Christ by grace through discipline</b> Exhortation
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**Who we are and what we have**      **What we should do with it in this life**

18

**There are many biblical images that remind us of our union with God "in Christ".**

<b>Baptism</b> (Rom.6:3-7)		<b>Bread &amp; cup</b> (1 Cor.10:16)		<b>Crucifixion</b> (Gal.2:20)	
<b>Cornerstone &amp; Building</b> (1 Peter 2:4-7)		<b>Bride &amp; Groom</b> (Eph. 5:22-32)		<b>Vine &amp; Branch</b> (John 15:1-16)	
<b>Body &amp; Head</b> (1 Cor. 12:27)		<b>Indwelling Spirit</b> (1 Cor.12:13)			

19

Christianity that doesn't start with the individual doesn't start.   Christianity that ends with the individual ends.



**Both are acts of worship in response to God.**

20

**The final word and "take home" principle of Col.1:15-20 is:**

***"Jesus is Lord of all."***

**The main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing in your personal life as a disciple and in your church as the whole Body of Christ.**

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# Colossians



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