

INTRODUCTION

In the next five verses Paul describes the completeness of Christ in heaven, on the earth, and in the church. The word “all” is recorded seven times in these five verses and each one reflects an aspect of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. These verses remind me of a hymn that I used to sing back in the day. *Christ is all. He’s everything to me. Christ is all. He rules the land and sea. Christ is all. Without Him nothing would be. Christ is all, all in all, this world to me.*

Colossians 1:15-18 (NKJV)

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over **all** creation. ¹⁶ For by Him **all** things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. **All** things were created through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before **all** things, and in Him **all** things consist. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in **all** things He may have the preeminence. ¹⁹ For it pleased *the Father* that in Him **all** the fullness should dwell,

An image usually reflects the visual representation of someone or something. When we look in a mirror we see a two dimensional image of ourselves, but we can only see what our eyes will allow. Even a three dimensional image (statue or bust) can only give us visual information about the person it represents. Adam was made in the image of God and was to rule and reign on earth in God’s stead, but failed miserably. Christ is the perfect and holy reflection of God the Father in thought, word and deed, which is much more important than any visual representation. Even blind Bartimaeus who sought healing from the side of the road could “see” that Jesus was much more than a man. (Mark 10:46-52)

The term “first born” is a position of power and authority, not birth position. David was given the position of the “firstborn” by God, but was the last son born physically to his father Jesse. (Ps. 89:27)

In the Greek language “all” means “all” leaving nothing out; things we can see and things we can’t. It does not mean “everything except”. Everything that was made was made by, through and for Jesus Christ. The gospel of John puts it this way, “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

The Gnostics of that day believed all flesh was evil. Therefore, they could not accept Jesus as 100% God and 100% man (flesh and blood). There are other cults today that attempt to reduce Christ’s position from God. One cult believes that Jesus is the Redeemer but is the created brother of Lucifer. Another cult believes that Jesus was sent as the sacrificial Lamb of God, but is not God, but the actual born son of God in the flesh. All three of these beliefs can be easily refuted by

Philippians 2:5-11.

⁵ Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.

⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,
¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,
¹¹ and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

It goes without saying the Christ is the head of the church; not the Pope not Pastor Chuck, not Billy Graham nor any other man living or dead.

When Jesus rose from the dead, he was the “firstborn from the dead.” What exactly does that mean? It means he is the first person who ever rose from the dead never to die again. During His ministry Jesus raised several people from the dead, including Lazarus who had been dead four days (John 11). Each occasion was a remarkable miracle, but they had this in common. All of the people Jesus raised would eventually physically die again.

Jesus did not die after He arose.

When he came out of the tomb on Easter Sunday morning, he rose once and for all. When he left the grave, he left for good. Jesus is the firstborn from the dead in the sense that he is the first among those on earth who will be raised from the dead never to die again.

1 Corinthians 15:50-52 (NKJV)

⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed--

⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

A superior ranking (preeminence) over everyone and everything can be obtained by appointment or it can be earned. Jesus was appointed by God the Father and to remove all doubt of Christ’s superiority, He also earned His superior ranking by leaving His place in glory, taking on the form of a human, was tempted in all things as humans are, was tired, was hungered, was thirsty, was betrayed by His friends, was beaten, was humiliated, was mocked, was nailed to an old rugged cross, bled and died on that cross to redeem those those that did not deserve it and rose again bodily to an everlasting life thereby solidifying everlasting life for those who follow after Him. No one else would have done it! No one else could have done it! What a Mighty God we serve!