



# NEWS BULLETIN

DATE: **28th April 2026. "The Supremacy of Christ" Colossians 1 v 15-23**

*<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by<sup>fi</sup> him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And 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, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. <sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, <sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

*<sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, <sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation<sup>la</sup> under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.*

Jesus is superior in every realm of life. He is the perfect image or representation of God, unlike sinful humans created in that image but marring it through rebellion (Gen Ch 1 v 26-27). To see the visible Jesus is to see the invisible God. He has inheritance rights and supreme authority over all creation because He is God's Son. He participated in the creation. He thus has authority over all created beings, even the invisible demonic powers. Creation was for Him, having as its goal His glory and rule. Nothing existed before Him, and thus nothing and no one can claim authority over Him. What He created, He held together in a meaningful pattern, so all meaning in life and the universe has its source in Christ.

That meaning is revealed to the world through the church of which Christ is the head. He is the Head because He was the first to be resurrected from the dead. God chose to let the fullness or total being of God dwell in the Son. On this basis the church confesses Jesus is God in flesh who restored the broken relationship between us and God by dying on the cross. Jesus is the "first-borne" or prior to all creation. He is the Agent of creation both on earth and in heaven and has superiority over all things.

In contrast to male and female who were created "in the image of God" (Gen Ch 1 v 27), Christ "is the image of the invisible God". Jesus Christ is the perfect and complete revelation of God to humanity

There are many interpreters who see in the background of this passage a heresy similar to an eclectic point of view known as Gnosticism. In this view matter was essentially evil. The pure Christ could not be contaminated by an "evil" material body in this understanding. Christ came as merely an emanation from the Father and not as a true human being. Paul showed neither matter nor human bodies are inherently evil. God did not create evil things. His creation was very good. Christ existed as coequal and coexistent with the Father. He indeed was the personal creator by whom the world came into being. Everything that was created originated with Him. The world that has become marred will be restored to a unity only as it finds its centre in Christ. He is the Source and, therefore, has authority over all creation.

Christ is the source of creation and the power that sustains it. He gives purpose and stability to the material order. This provides the basis for the Christian view of the material world. This view contrasts sharply with non-Christian views that either say material things are evil and valueless or think the material world is all that exists and so is all-important. Christians view material things as good and valuable if used to fulfil God's holy purposes for money and possessions, and to reach the otherwise lost world for Him.

The church has only one position of honour, which is permanently filled by Christ. The church exists because of Jesus Christ, the risen Lord ruling in the heavens. Using the imagery of the body, Christ is the head which directs the actions of all the other parts of the body. The church is connected directly to its Head and, thus, represents Christ's presence in the world

Sin and guilt separate us from God, the source of peace. Reconciliation bringing peace and order into creation has been performed through Jesus' act of redemption. True peace with God can be found only through Him.

Jesus Christ is not only our Redeemer, it's to Him we look to find the creator and maintainer of the cosmos that He rules. How mind blowing is that, how great was, is, and always will be, His love for us gathered round this table this morning, that He came to earth to die for us so that He could let us be at peace with God and make us morally holy in God's sight.

Without God's grace salvation would not be possible. God is the Redeemer. The whole work of salvation from start to finish is God's work. In its entirety God the Father was and is reconciling a rebellious world to Himself.

In his death, Jesus suffered the punishment for our sin and restored the relationship between us and God. God no longer inputs sin on our record. Rather He counts us as ministers leading others to Jesus and thus to reconciliation with God. (2 Cor Ch5 v 18-21).

Salvation is reconciliation to God so that He no longer charges our sins against our account. God has done everything necessary for us to be reconciled to Him

We “NEED”, no it must be stronger than that, we “MUST” give up our hostility to him and accept his reconciliation. Reconciliation here means bringing God and human beings together or making them friends.

God’s reconciliation through Christ is all inclusive. It is as mentioned, vertical, between God and us. It is also horizontal reconciliation between us and those around us whom we come into contact with, not always on a regular basis.

We are restored through the saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross. His death alone makes restoration with His Father possible, probable, no a cast-iron certainty. How can I be so adamant about a matter of such seriousness. Because God has promised to do so, and He doesn’t go back on his word (1 John Ch 1 v 9 ) *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness”* what greater promise would anyone want than that?

Such a promise should fill us with such joy that our Saviour loves us to such an extent, that He could do so much for us. However, that does put us in a position of responsibility to ensure we don’t “slip” again, yes, the promise still holds good, but we do NOT want to give our Saviour any more heartache than He already has over us.

The relationship with God, which had been broken by human rebellion and sinfulness, has now been restored by God through the death of Christ. God’s aim has always been to create a Holy, pure people (Lev Ch 11 v44). Christ’s death covered our sins. Christ will present us to the Father as His people with no one to accuse us. Having this assurance in Christ, we must live the life of holiness. Sin sets up a barrier between the sinner and God, making us God’s enemies. Christ provides a way to destroy the sin barrier and reconcile enemies.

The word for servant in this passage is diakonos, the origin of the term “deacon”. Here, the word implies a function rather than an office. Paul affirmed his service to Christ as a minister or servant of Christ, a service which God granted by His grace. Rather than laborious servitude, ministry for Christ brings joyful freedom.

Every Christian should be a servant of Christ. Ministry is not confined to certain officers of the church but is commanded for every believer (Eph Ch3 v 7)

*<sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power.*

Transcript of the presentation given by Deacon Rodney Burge and discussed at the church-based, morning home group on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026. All scripture is from the ESV Translation.

