



Colossians 1:16

16 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.

Reflection

Who is Jesus Christ? All of eternity hinges on how you answer that question. And I'm not sure there is a better answer in all of

Scripture than Colossians 1:15–20. Who is Jesus Christ?

15 [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 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. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 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. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 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.

But this is feast far too rich for one talk alone and so today we're focussing on just one verse, Colossians 1:16,

16 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.

Yesterday we learnt from verse 15 that Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God bearing the exact imprint of his nature. He is the exegesis of God, the Word

of God who in himself narrates God, because he is God, the mystery revealed, God in the flesh come down that we might see and know and have a personal relationship with the living God. And having been appointed 'first born' over creation, the highest honour belongs to him. He is completely supreme in all creation. In everything he has the supremacy.

In today's passage Paul goes on to give the reason for Jesus' supremacy over all created things. Verse 16,

16 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.

This verse bends our minds, and re-orders our thinking and understanding of reality in the world around us. Why is Jesus supreme over all creation? Why is the highest honour accorded to him? Because in him all things were created – everything – all things have been created through him and, get this, for him. Jesus Christ is not just the agent of creation, all created things were made for him, for his purposes, his ends, for his rightful possession and to his glory. Whatever you are doing right now look around you. That bus, this child, that sunrise, this corporation, the vehicle you are driving as you listen to this app – his. There is not a single square inch of this universe – millions of light years across – that was not created through Jesus and ultimately for Jesus, for his purposes, for

his possession and for his glory. This is the kind of supremacy that we are talking about. There can be no greater honour, no greater power, no greater person than this. Verse 16,

16 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.

All things. Things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities. All things. The Scriptures and Jewish literature reveal that the four descriptions 'thrones, powers, rulers and authorities' refer to four classes of angelic power, with the last two

referring to the highest orders of the angelic realm. Satan, one of these fallen angels (Ephesians calls him the prince of the power of the air) made his move on creation, but in this cosmic battle, war raging in both the earthly and spiritual realms, as with everything, Jesus has the supremacy.

And not only have all things been created through him, all things have been created for him. Jesus Christ is the goal of all creation. Some translate the word 'for' as 'towards,' which makes the sense even more dramatic. 'All things were created by him and towards him. Everything began with him and will end with him. All things sprang forth at his command, and all things will return to him at his command. He is the beginning and the end – the Alpha and

Omega. In all things he has the supremacy, and ultimately, in one way or another everything, every person who has ever lived and every created thing will bring him glory.

Think

In him. Through him. For him. Everything. Take some extended time today to range through, in your mind's eye, the people you know, the possessions you own, the skills you have and the person that you are. Try and see them in a new light. All of these things, all of these people, your very self – Christ's. Created in him and through him and for him. What does this mean for the way you look on the house that you own? What does this mean for the way you deploy your professional skill? What does

this mean for the way you spend your money or view your children's future? Christ's. Take some extended time today to meditate over the stunning implications of Colossians 1:16,

16 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.

Then pray again today that God would enable you by the power of his Holy Spirit to raise your vision to appropriate heights so that you might truly contemplate the majesty and supremacy of Jesus. The book of Hebrews which begins in similar fashion to this passage in Colossians tells us

to,

Fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Not, 'momentarily raise our gaze', or 'occasionally be reminded about him on a Sunday morning', but to fix – to deliberately and unrelenting set our gaze on Christ. Make this your prayer today as you see your whole life in the new light of the kingdom of light. All glory be to the one in whom,

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.

Amen.