



NEW TESTAMENT • LESSON 62

THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST

Christ is supreme over all.



MONDAY

THE STORY: COLOSSIANS 1:15-17

Christ is head over creation. After Paul's opening remarks to the Colossians, he exalts Christ. First, Paul exalts Christ as the image of the invisible God. This is similar to what John tells us in his Gospel: "No man has ever seen God, but God the One and only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known" (John 1:18). Paul then opens our eyes to the work of Christ in creating the world. Not only did the Son create the world, but He also sustains it and holds it together. When Jesus wanted to feed the multitude, he multiplied the bread and fish. When Jesus rebuked the wind and the waves, they listened. And when Jesus commanded Lazarus to come forth, he came forth.

TALK ABOUT IT:

How could Jesus be the Creator when He was born after the creation was already created? (We need to remember that the Son of God is God's eternal Son, who always existed with the Father. Although the person of Jesus did not exist prior to His birth and His taking a human body, the eternal Son of God was with the Father and created the world. Paul finds no need to be careful to make any distinction when he describes the eternal nature of the Son, whom he introduced in Colossians 1:3 as the "Lord Jesus Christ.")

Is there anything that Jesus is not in control of? (No, all things are in subject to Christ.)

Why is sin such a terrible thing when we consider this passage? (Sin is man's rebellion against the rule of Christ. Sin is saying "no" to God's authority and rule in our lives.)

PRAY:

Ask the Lord to pour out His grace upon your family so that you might love Him and obey His commands.



TUESDAY

THE STORY: COLOSSIANS 1:18,19

Christ is head over re-creation. Christ is not only head over the original creation but also the new creation that comes to men via the Holy Spirit. Christ is the head of the church so that He has supremacy over all things. The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross restored peace between God and man. Jesus did this by taking the punishment we deserved.

TALK ABOUT IT:

Where do you see the gospel in today's passage? (Draw out your children so they tell you why they believe their answer is the gospel.)

When will we experience the reconciliation of all things, which Paul tells us will come through Christ? (The full restoration of peace will come when Jesus returns. Read Romans 8:18-25.)

PRAY:

Ask Jesus to come back soon and put an end to all sickness, sin, and death.



WEDNESDAY
WHERE IS THE GOSPEL?

THE STORY: COLOSSIANS 1:21-23

After introducing the peace that resulted from Christ's sacrifice on the cross in verse 20, Paul goes on to more fully describe this wonderful miracle. We were separated - alienated - from God as His enemies. Right from the very beginning with Adam and Eve, sin separated people from God. After sinning, Adam and Eve were afraid of God. Now, through the sacrifice of Jesus, people can be reconciled to God. Not only that, but also our sins can be taken away so that we are presented without blemish (that is, without sin). We who have been saved are then called to continue in faith and hope in the promise of the gospel.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What are people called before they believe in Christ? (They are called enemies of God.)

Why are we called enemies of God? (The evil in our hearts and our sinful behavior alienates us from God.)

What does Paul tell us we need to do to be saved? (We need to have firm faith and hope in the gospel. Faith requires that we have repented [turned away] from our sin and placed our trust in the sacrifice of Jesus.)

What is the gospel? (The gospel is the good news that we can be reconciled to God by faith in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Do not tire of asking your children to recall the gospel. If a person is to be saved, it will be through the truth of the message we have in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every person who has grown up surrounded by the truth of Christ, yet finds no application of that truth to their life, has either misunderstood truth or rejected the gospel outright.)

PRAY:

Ask God to help each member of your family trust and hope in Christ their whole lives.



THURSDAY

THE STORY: COLOSSIANS 1:20

All things will be reconciled by the blood of the cross. The entire creation was affected by the fall, which came when Adam sinned. Romans 8:20-22 tells us that all of creation was frustrated and affected by the fall. Paul goes on in that passage to tell us that one day the creation will be liberated from this curse of sin and destruction and that the creation “groans” for this to happen. This does not mean the creation is actually making noise but that it needs to be fixed. Just like a crooked picture on the wall seems to say, “Straighten me up,” so the creation is in need of restoration. Here in Colossians 1:20 we see just how this “fix” will come. Not only does Christ’s sacrifice reverse the curse of sin in the lives of those who believe, but it also reverses the curse that the sin of Adam brought upon the world. This will happen at the end of the age, when Jesus returns.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What will change when God re-creates the world? (There will no longer be any sun or moon or stars for light, for Jesus the lamb will be the light [see Isaiah 24:23 and Revelation 22:5]. Another big change is that there will be no more death or pain [see Revelation 21:4]. The animals will no longer hunt one another but live together peacefully [see Isaiah 65:25].)

What should encourage us about this passage? (This passage helps us to see just how wonderful the sacrifice of Jesus is. Because of what Jesus did, the whole world will be changed! That is something to look forward to! We get excited when we see a shooting star or by our first visit to the Grand Canyon. Imagine just how exciting it will be to see the whole world made new!)

PRAY:

Thank the Lord for the amazing work of the cross, which is able to change every heart and reverse the curse of sin.



**FRIDAY
ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS**

THE STORY: PSALM 22:14-16

Jesus' hands and feet were pierced when He was nailed to the cross. When Thomas doubted, he insisted on seeing and touching the nail marks in Jesus; feet and hands (see John 20:25). These verses in Psalm 22 are a picture of the crucifixion of our Lord.

TALK ABOUT IT:

What other references to the suffering of Christ do you see in this passage? (Jesus sweated terribly and lost a great amount of blood from His flogging. In that way He was poured out like water. Jesus certainly would have had little strength left and He would have been badly dehydrated. Jesus expressed His thirst on the cross [see John 19:28].)

How does reading this prophetic passage point to God's sovereign control over the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross? (By forecasting events through the prophets, we see God is really in control. Nothing happens by chance. God delivered Jesus up to be crucified according to His predetermined plan.)

PRAY:

Thank the Lord for suffering on the cross in our place.