

“That He Might Be Preeminent”

Sermon Notes

➤ **Who is this Lord, that I should obey his voice? (Ex 5:2)**
He is . . .

1. . . . Preeminent Over Creation (15-17a)

1. Visible Image of unseen God (15a)

2. Firstborn of Creation (15b)

3. Instrument and end of Creation (16-17)

2. . . . Preeminent Over the New Creation (18-20)

1. Unseen head of the visible Church (18a)

2. Firstborn from the Dead (18b)

3. Instrument and end of Reconciliation (19-20)

Next Sunday: Colossians 1:21-23 “Continue in the Faith Stable & Steadfast”

MEFC Community Group Study Questions

For the week of October 10th-16th

Getting Started

1. In an interview in McCall's Magazine (Jan 1978), Billy Graham said, "I used to play God but I can't do that any more. I used to believe that pagans in far-off countries were lost and were going to hell—if they did not have the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached to them. I no longer believe that . . . I believe that there are other ways of recognizing the existence of God—through nature, for instance—and plenty of other opportunities, therefore, of saying 'yes' to God." Does the object of your faith matter if it is ultimately directed to the creator?

Digging Deeper

2. In our recent study of the book of Ecclesiastes, a recurring theme was "all is vanity under the sun." What sort of answer might today's reading have provided for Solomon in his life-long search for meaning in life?
3. Since Darwin, existential nihilists have followed the premises that man is the product of evolution, the Earth has no special place among the stars, and that history is not progressive, and concluded that our existence, action, suffering, willing and feeling have no meaning. Contrast each premise and the conclusion with the divine truth revealed in today's passage.

Open Your Bible to Colossians 1:15-20.

4. In the preceding passage (Col 1:13-14) we discussed our identity in Christ in that we are delivered, transferred, redeemed and forgiven. How does today's passage follow logically from this passage? What insight does today's passage give us on our identity in Christ?
5. In verse 15 we learn that Christ is the image of the invisible God. In verse 18, we learn that he is the head of his body, the church. What is the role of the image of God in the created world? What is the role of the church in the redeemed world? Are these two concepts connected, and if so, how?
6. In verse 15 we learn that Christ is the firstborn of creation. In verse 18, we learn that he is firstborn from the dead. Does this refer to first in time, first in preeminence, or both? Is he the same sort of firstborn in each? Does either term refer to his birth in Bethlehem?
7. In verse 16 we learn that all things were created by him, through him, and for him. In verse 20 all things are reconciled to God through him. How inclusive is the term, "all things"? Does this include demons, Satan, and the unrepentant? If so, what sort of reconciliation is indicated?
8. Given the preeminence of Christ proclaimed in these verses, how worried should we be

about our circumstances and our choices? How different might your life be if you embraced and demonstrated the control Christ has over your life?