

God Time Day 1: Jesus Is the Image of the Invisible God



One reason that Paul wrote to the Colossian church was to refute the false teachings that were taking place. Because of this, his letter contains some very deep theological truths about who Jesus is. This week's passage gives one of the most profound descriptions of Jesus in the whole Bible. Let's dive in deep.



Read Colossians 1:15.
He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

Circle the word "image." Underline who Jesus is the image of.

The word "image" literally means an icon or idol. Jesus is the living idol of the invisible God. Remember, an idol is something *bowed to and worshiped*. Worshiping an idol goes against the first two of the 10 commandments, but clearly, the Bible teaches us to worship Jesus (see Matthew 2:2, 2:8-11, and 14:33). How does this not break God's commandments? Because Jesus is fully God, and so He is worthy of our worship. The more we look at Jesus the more we understand about God the Father.

Circle the word "firstborn."

What is Jesus the firstborn over? _____

The word "firstborn" in the Bible means priority or supremacy. It *can* refer to birth order, but the context here does not support that. In this passage, as we'll see tomorrow, the context highlights Christ's *priority and supremacy!* This is a hugely important Christian doctrine (teaching). Jesus is *not* the first one born out of creation – that would mean God created Him, and He would not be God because He would be a creature. (Remember this if a Jehovah's Witness or Mormon comes to your door.)



Take what you just learned and write a short explanation of why Jesus is worthy of our worship.

God Time Day 2: Jesus Created All Things



Read Colossians 1:16.
For everything was created by him [Jesus], in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through him and for him.

In the verse above, circle what Jesus created.

Look up John 1:1-3 (remember that "the Word" is Jesus) and look at Genesis 1:1-3. In Genesis, notice that God created everything by speaking His "Word."

Journal your answers to these three questions:

- How do you see these three passages aligning?
- What did Jesus create?
- So, what does this tell us about Jesus being God? (Again, remember this if a Jehovah's Witness comes to the door. GotQuestions.org is a great resource to help.)

God Time Day 3: Jesus Sustains His Creation



Read Colossians 1:17-18, NLT.
¹⁷He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together. ¹⁸Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.

Jesus is both *preexistent* and *immanent*. This means that He existed before anything else. He is present with His creation and sustains it, but He is also totally distinct from it. This is foundational Christian doctrine.

In verse 18, circle the phrase "the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead." Jesus sets the pattern for us – someday we will all rise from the dead to an eternity with God in a new humanity.

Since Jesus sustains everything, He is God and to be obeyed.

What step of obedience is He asking you to take today?

God Time Day 4: Jesus Is Over All Things

We've already talked about Jesus' supremacy. But we aren't done yet! Jesus is so supreme, the Bible has even more to say—in Colossians and elsewhere.



Read Colossians 1:19.

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in [Jesus].

In this part of Colossians, Paul is refuting the false teachings that had infiltrated the church.

Stop for a minute and think about how sound biblical doctrine (teaching) and theology (beliefs about God) protects the church from false teaching – both from outside and inside of the church. If we begin to believe wrongly, what might happen to the church?

It is important we grow in grace (the love we show for God and others) and in knowledge of truth (using our intellects). Both are needed to keep the church on the right track.

Look again at verse 19. Circle what it says dwells in Jesus.

All the “fullness” of God dwells in Jesus and not in anyone or anything else. This means that in Christ is the sum-total of God's attributes and powers. Jesus was both fully human (except for sin) and fully God. And since that is the case, Jesus is over all things (Read Matthew 28:18). We should never elevate anything above Him.

What is one thing you allow to be above your relationship with God? (Where do you spend time, talent, and treasure?)

What will you change to put God first?

Bonus Step: Look up John 12:41 and Isaiah 6:1-4 to read about the glory of Christ. He is over all things!

God Time Day 5: Jesus is our Peace



There are a couple of things that we must understand about sin to better understand how Jesus is our peace.

First, all of humanity are sinners. We are born sinners because Adam and Eve's original disobedience (sin) affected everyone. Before sin entered the world, humankind had complete peace with God – there was no disharmony in the relationship. But once that first sin was committed, the world was affected and the peace (*shalom*) between God and humankind was broken.

Second, since we are all sinners, our need for restored peace with God can't be obtained based on our own efforts! Why? Because our sinfulness taints everything we do. We need a perfect sacrifice to restore the peace for us. His name is Jesus. (Watch 1-Story at cbcfamily.net/go2)



Read Colossians 1:21-23.

²¹Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds as expressed in your evil actions. ²²But now he has reconciled you by his physical body through his death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before him — ²³if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it.

In verses 21 and 22, circle how the people *were* before and underline how they *are* after Jesus reconciled them to God (or restored their relationship with God).

Put a box around what we, who continue in the faith, should not shift away from. (v. 23)

Spend time in worship and thankfulness for who Jesus is and for what He has done.

How have this week's God Time devotions challenged or grown your beliefs?
