

## **Who is First in Your Life? The Preeminence of Christ**

**Colossians 1:18** <sup>18</sup> And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

καὶ αὐτός ἐστιν ἡ κεφαλὴ τοῦ σώματος τῆς ἐκκλησίας· ὅς ἐστιν ἀρχὴ πρωτότοκος ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν γένηται ἐν πᾶσιν αὐτὸς πρωτεύων

First place – this is a phrase that may make us think of athletic competition. It is the best. The first place team has won it all...all the glory, the recognition, the attention, the air-time, the fame. Everyone who competes wants to win first place. It is why athletes put all their time and effort into training and playing the games.

We have many things in our lives which must be prioritized. There are many different responsibilities, people, events, etc. in our lives which are fighting to win first place. What is going to win first place in our lives? Or more importantly, what should win first place in our lives?

Paul tells us **Who** should “win” first place in our lives in Colossians 1:18:

### **Christ is first in all things:**

1. The \_\_\_\_\_

“And He is the head of the body, the church,”

Head – κεφαλὴ, kephale - head; lord, head (of superior rank, etc.);

- The church is Christ's. He is the head in the sense of being the \_\_\_\_\_, the foundation:

Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 2:19-22

- The head is the “control center” for the \_\_\_\_\_. It is the part of the body which makes decisions and which controls the rest of the body.
- Christ is the “control center” for the \_\_\_\_\_. The things which we do, the decisions which we make should align with the will of Christ.

- Christ ought to be the head of the church as a \_\_\_\_\_ and also of the \_\_\_\_\_ members of the church.

Ephesians 1:22 – 23; Ephesians 4:11-16; Ephesians 5:22-24

If Christ is truly the head of the church and the head of our church, then we must seek to please Him and do His will in every area of the church. This means in our relationships to each other, to our leaders, to those outside the church, we must act biblically. Our goals and purposes must be those which will promote and glorify Christ.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

“who is the beginning,”

Christ is first in the sense that He \_\_\_\_\_ first. In eternity past there was none before Christ.

**John 1:1-3** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

Christ preexists everything else. There was none \_\_\_\_\_ Him and therefore there is none who inherently \_\_\_\_\_ a position before Him.

### 3. The Resurrection

“the firstborn from the dead,”

- Christ was the first to be \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead. All of us who have trusted Christ will follow Him.

1 Corinthians 15:12-24

- His resurrection from the dead gives us the ability to be \_\_\_\_\_ to the image of Christ.

Romans 8:28-29

- In Revelation, we see that Christ is the firstborn from the dead, and that just as He \_\_\_\_\_ over the kings of the earth, will make us kings and priests to His God and Father.

Revelation 1:4-6

Because Christ is the firstborn from the dead, we share in all that His death and resurrection have accomplished.

### 4. \_\_\_\_\_.

“that in all things He may have the preeminence.”

Preeminence - πρωτεύω, proteuō - have \_\_\_\_\_ place, be above all else. It is the verbal form of *protos* - “\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.” This word occurs only in this passage.

This is \_\_\_\_\_ things, not just some. What does it mean to have first place?

(A little bit of time at the beginning of the day)

- How much of your \_\_\_\_\_ is given to Jesus? If you measured the time spent on everything you do, where would the time given to Jesus rank?
- How often during the day do your \_\_\_\_\_ turn to Jesus? How much do you think about \_\_\_\_\_?
- Does Jesus have first place in all thing which you \_\_\_\_\_? Do you focus on pleasing Jesus as you work? As you play? As you study? As you relax? Does Jesus have first place \_\_\_\_\_ the things you do?
- How does acknowledging that Jesus is first in all think affect the way you \_\_\_\_\_?

Is Christ preeminent in your life?