

# Serve the Savior as the Creator

## Colossians 1:15-17

- BGT** <sup>15</sup> ὅς ἐστιν εἰκὼν τοῦ θεοῦ τοῦ ἀοράτου, πρωτότοκος πάσης κτίσεως, <sup>16</sup> ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ ἐκτίσθη τὰ πάντα ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, τὰ ὄρατα καὶ τὰ ἀόρατα, εἴτε θρόνοι εἴτε κυριότητες εἴτε ἀρχαὶ εἴτε ἐξουσίαι· τὰ πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ καὶ εἰς αὐτὸν ἔκτισται· <sup>17</sup> καὶ αὐτός ἐστιν πρὸ πάντων καὶ τὰ πάντα ἐν αὐτῷ συνέστηκεν,
- NKJ** <sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

My Identity as an INDIVIDUAL (Colossians 1:1)

My Identity as Part of a GROUP (Colossians 1:2)

Three Realms of a Believer's Walk (Colossians 1:3-8) – Ongoing Belief, Active Care, Forward Focus

Three Areas of Prayer for Spiritual Growth (Colossians 1:9-11) – Worthy Walking, Fruitful Working, Empowered Doing

Four Reasons to Thank God (1:12-14) – Our Qualification, Extrication, Translation, Redemption (He made us fit, free, followers, forgiven)

### 1. Identity – Image – God of all

He is the image of the invisible God (ὅς ἐστιν εἰκὼν τοῦ θεοῦ τοῦ ἀοράτου,)

#### A. Man created in the image of God

#### B. Jesus IS the image of God

**2 Cor 4:4** whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

#### C. No carved image

#### D. Believers are predestined to be conformed to Christ's image (Rom 8:29) through the Word (2 Cor 3:18)

##### Invisible

- **Invisible Attributes** (Rom 1:20) – For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,
- **Creation of and Control Over All Things** (Col 1:16) – For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
- **Seeing Him Who is Invisible** (Heb 11:27) – By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.
- **1 Tim 1:17** Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.
- John 4:24

### 2. Priority – Firstborn of all

the firstborn over all creation (πρωτότοκος πάσης κτίσεως)

“firstborn” can mean first created being and/or that which has precedence over creation NIGTC (Colossians)

“That ‘firstborn’ must denote primacy over creation, and not just within creation, is indicated by the conjunction linking the two verses: he is ‘firstborn of all creation *because* in him were created all things” in heaven and in earth. NIGTC (Colossians)

**Revelation 3:14** "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ' These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: (Καὶ τῷ ἀγγέλῳ τῆς ἐν Λαοδικείᾳ ἐκκλησίας γράψον· Τάδε λέγει ὁ ἀμήν, ὁ μάρτυς ὁ πιστὸς καὶ ἀληθινός, ἡ ἀρχὴ τῆς κτίσεως τοῦ θεοῦ·)

#### Jesus, the Firstborn

- **Of creation**
- **From the dead** (Rev 1:5; cf. Col 1:18) – and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,
- **Among many brethren** (Rom 8:29) – For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

- **Commanded to Be Worshipped as God** (Heb 1:6) – But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "Let all the angels of God worship Him."
- **To which the general assembly and church belong** (Heb 12:23) – to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

### 3. **Activity** – Creator of all

For by Him all things were created (ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ ἐκτίσθη τὰ πάντα)

#### A. **The extent of creation (what)**

that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers (ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, τὰ ὄρατὰ καὶ τὰ ἀόρατα, εἴτε θρόνοι εἴτε κυριότητες εἴτε ἀρχαὶ εἴτε ἐξουσίαι)

- Where – Any place
- What – Any thing – “no job too small”
- Who – Any body – answerable to Him & controlled by Him

#### Results in the Accountability of Creature to Creator

**Hebrews 4:13** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account. (καὶ οὐκ ἔστιν κτίσις ἀφανῆς ἐνώπιον αὐτοῦ, πάντα δὲ γυμνὰ καὶ τετραχλισμένα τοῖς ὀφθαλμοῖς αὐτοῦ, πρὸς ὃν ἡμῖν ὁ λόγος.)

#### Results in the Limitation of Creation

**Romans 8:39** nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (οὔτε ὕψωμα οὔτε βάθος οὔτε τις κτίσις ἑτέρα δυνήσεται ἡμᾶς χωρίσαι ἀπὸ τῆς ἀγάπης τοῦ θεοῦ τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ τῷ κυρίῳ ἡμῶν.)

#### B. **The means of creation (how)** – All things were created through Him (τὰ πάντα δι’ αὐτοῦ)

**Eph 2:10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (αὐτοῦ γὰρ ἔσμεν ποίημα, κτισθέντες ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ ἐπὶ ἔργοις ἀγαθοῖς οἷς προητοίμασεν ὁ θεός, ἵνα ἐν αὐτοῖς περιπατήσωμεν.)

**Eph 3:9** and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; (καὶ φωτίσαι [πάντας] τίς ἡ οἰκονομία τοῦ μυστηρίου τοῦ ἀποκεκρυμμένου ἀπὸ τῶν αἰώνων ἐν τῷ θεῷ τῷ τὰ πάντα κτίσαντι.)

**Rev 4:11** "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created." (ἄξιός εἰ, ὁ κύριος καὶ ὁ θεός ἡμῶν, λαβεῖν τὴν δόξαν καὶ τὴν τιμὴν καὶ τὴν δύναμιν, ὅτι σὺ ἔκτισας τὰ πάντα καὶ διὰ τὸ θέλημα σου ἦσαν καὶ ἐκτίσθησαν.)

#### C. **The purpose of creation (why)** – and for Him (εἰς αὐτὸν ἔκτισται)

**Romans 1:25** who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. (οἵτινες μετέλλαξαν τὴν ἀλήθειαν τοῦ θεοῦ ἐν τῷ ψεῦδει καὶ ἐσεβάσθησαν καὶ ἐλάτρευσαν τῇ κτίσει παρὰ τὸν κτίσαντα, ὅς ἐστιν εὐλογητὸς εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας, ἀμήν.)

Without Accepting God as the Creator, You Cannot Know or Understand:

- The Purpose and Plan of Gender (Matt 19:4; 1 Cor 11:9)
- The Extent of the Gospel Message (Mark 16:15)
- The Means of Comprehending Time (Mark 13:19)
- The Plan of God for Believers – Good Works (Eph 2:10)
- The Power of God in Salvation & Sanctification – Creation of a New Man (Eph 4:24)
- The Process and Goal of Believers – Renewed in Knowledge (Col 3:10)
- The Power of God to Make New Things – New Creation (2 Cor 5:17; Gal 6:15)
- The Propriety of Marriage (1 Tim 4:3)
- The Purpose of Food (1 Tim 4:3)
- To Differentiate Between Things Created and Uncreated (Heb 9:11)
- Many, many other things.

### 4. **Summary**

A. **The Commander of creation (priority)** – And He is before all things, (καὶ αὐτός ἐστιν πρὸ πάντων)

B. **The Sustainer of creation (power – God)** – and in Him all things consist (καὶ τὰ πάντα ἐν αὐτῷ συνέστηκεν)

Διὰ τοῦτο καὶ ἡμεῖς,  
ἀφ' ἧς ἡμέρας ἠκούσαμεν,  
οὐ παυόμεθα ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν  
**προσευχόμενοι** καὶ  
**αἰτούμενοι**,  
ἵνα πληρωθῆτε τὴν **ἐπιγνώσιν** τοῦ θελήματος αὐτοῦ  
**ἐν πάσῃ**  
σοφίᾳ καὶ  
συνέσει πνευματικῇ,  
**περιπατήσαι** ἀξίως τοῦ κυρίου  
εἰς **πάσαν** ἀρεσκείαν,  
**ἐν παντὶ** ἔργῳ ἀγαθῷ  
**καρποφοροῦντες** καὶ  
**αὐξανόμενοι**  
τῇ **ἐπιγνώσει** τοῦ θεοῦ,  
**ἐν πάσῃ** δυνάμει  
**δυναμούμενοι**  
κατὰ τὸ κράτος  
τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ  
εἰς **πάσαν**  
ὑπομονὴν καὶ  
μακροθυμίαν. Μετὰ χαρᾶς  
**εὐχαριστοῦντες**  
τῷ πατρὶ  
τῷ **ικανώσαντι** ὑμᾶς  
εἰς τὴν μερίδα  
τοῦ κλήρου  
τῶν ἁγίων  
ἐν τῷ φωτί·  
ὃς  
**ἐρρύσατο** ἡμᾶς  
ἐκ τῆς ἐξουσίας  
τοῦ σκοτοῦ καὶ  
**μετέστησεν**  
εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν  
τοῦ υἱοῦ τῆς ἀγάπης αὐτοῦ,  
ἐν ᾧ ἔχομεν  
τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν,  
τὴν ἄφεσιν  
τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν·  
ὃς ἐστὶν  
**εἰκὼν** τοῦ θεοῦ τοῦ ἀοράτου,  
**πρωτότοκος** **πάσης** **κτίσεως**,  
ὅτι ἐν αὐτῷ **ἐκτίσθη** τὰ πάντα  
ἐν τοῖς οὐρανοῖς καὶ  
ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς,  
τὰ ὄρατα καὶ  
τὰ ἀόρατα,  
εἴτε θρόνοι  
εἴτε κυριότητες  
εἴτε ἀρχαὶ  
εἴτε ἐξουσίαι·  
τὰ πάντα  
δι' αὐτοῦ καὶ  
εἰς αὐτὸν  
**ἐκτίσται**· καὶ  
αὐτός ἐστιν πρὸ πάντων καὶ  
τὰ πάντα ἐν αὐτῷ **συνέστηκε**, {→}

On account of this also we,  
from which day we heard,  
not we are ceasing on behalf of you  
**praying** and  
**asking**,  
in order that you {pl} might be filled with the knowledge of the will of him  
**in all (PRACTICE – worthy walking – what)**  
wisdom and  
understanding {insight} spiritual,  
**to walk** {aor inf} worthily of the Lord  
**unto all** [things] a desire to please,  
**in** {into?} **all** [things?] a work good (**PRODUCE – fruitful working**)  
**bearing fruit** and  
**being increased**  
in the knowledge of the God,  
**in all** [things?] power (**POWER – empowered effort – how**)  
**being empowered**  
according to the might {force}  
of the glory of him  
**unto all**  
endurance and  
longsuffering. Amid {meta} joy,  
**giving thanks**  
to [the] father  
to the One who **made sufficient** {aor part} { renders fit} us  
**unto the share** {part}  
of the called [one]  
of the holy [ones]  
in {by} the light;  
Who  
**has delivered** us  
from {out of} the authority  
of the darkness and  
**has conveyed** [us]  
into the kingdom  
of the Son of the love of Him,  
in Whom we have {-}  
the redemption through His blood,  
the forgiveness  
of sins.  
Who is  
**Image** {ikon} of the God the invisible {unseeable},  
**Firstborn** of **all** **creation**,  
Because **in Him were created** **the all**  
In the heavens and  
Upon the earth,  
The visible things and  
The invisible things  
Whether thrones,  
Whether lordships,  
Whether rulers,  
Whether authorities;  
**The all**  
**Through Him** and  
**Unto Him**  
**were created**; and  
He is before **all** and  
**The all** **in Him** have been **held together** {→}.

giving thanks to the father to the one who makes sufficient {aor part} {who renders fit} us unto the share {part} of the called [one] of the holy [ones] in {by} the light; who delivered {rescued} us from {out of} the authority of the darkness and transferred [us] unto the kingdom of the son of the love of him, in whom we have the redemption, the release {remission} of the sins;

## Future of Creation

**Romans 8:19** For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.

ἡ γὰρ ἀποκαταδοκία τῆς κτίσεως τὴν ἀποκάλυψιν τῶν υἱῶν τοῦ θεοῦ ἀπεκδέχεται.

**Romans 8:20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope;

τῇ γὰρ ματαιότητι ἡ κτίσις ὑπετάγη, οὐχ ἑκοῦσα ἀλλὰ διὰ τὸν ὑποτάξαντα, ἐφ' ἐλπίδι

**Romans 8:21** because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

ὅτι καὶ αὐτὴ ἡ κτίσις ἐλευθερωθήσεται ἀπὸ τῆς δουλείας τῆς φθορᾶς εἰς τὴν ἐλευθερίαν τῆς δόξης τῶν τέκνων τοῦ θεοῦ.

**Romans 8:22** For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

οἶδαμεν γὰρ ὅτι πᾶσα ἡ κτίσις συστενάζει καὶ συνωδίνει ἄχρι τοῦ νῦν·