

## It's All About Who You Know

### Reading God's Word: Colossians 1:15–22

#### **Christ Is Supreme**

<sup>15</sup>Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before God made anything at all and is supreme over all creation. <sup>16</sup>Christ is the one through whom God created everything in heaven and earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—kings, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities. Everything has been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He existed before everything else began, and he holds all creation together.

<sup>18</sup>Christ is the head of the church, which is his body. He is the first of all who will rise from the dead, so he is first in everything. <sup>19</sup>For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, <sup>20</sup>and by him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of his blood on the cross. <sup>21</sup>This includes you who were once so far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions, <sup>22</sup>yet now he has brought you back as his friends. He has done this through his death on the cross in his own human body. As a result, he has brought you into the very presence of God, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault.

#### **It's All About Who You Know**

The Christian life is all about trusting Jesus Christ and getting to know Him better and better. This knowing is both personal and progressive. The experience is a little like being rescued—we were drowning in a sea of sin, but someone dove in and rescued us, risking his own life. Not only are we thankful for the fact that he saved us, but we are eager to get to know this lifeguard. One of the first things we discover is that our rescuer turns out to be the only son of a very important person. We are overwhelmed. How could someone value us so much? The more we learn about our rescuer and the more we spend time with him, the deeper our gratitude grows.

That's how it is with Jesus, God's only Son. The above verses are filled with basic and amazing information about Jesus. He is God made visible. He was involved in our creation. What Jesus did on the cross affected every person in all of history. Because of what Jesus did for you, you can now stand before God "holy and blameless" (v. 22).

One thing's certain, the more you know Jesus Christ, the more you want to know. Meeting Him changes everything, but it's also just the beginning. There's always more about Jesus to discover. You may have invited Him into your life a long time ago, or you may have turned your life over to Him for the first time recently, but getting to know Him better will take a lifetime and beyond.

If exploring Jesus' character and life is new to you, we suggest you choose one of the stories of Jesus' life, found in the New Testament Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Take your time reading these accounts. Put yourself in the sandals of the first followers of Jesus and experience what they must have felt, learned and seen as they spent time with God in person. You will never regret getting to know Christ better.

**Think about these questions as you read Colossians 1:15–22:**

- What stands out the most to you about Jesus?
- Since God created all things through Jesus, what do you think He can do with your life?

**Apply It**

Jesus makes God accessible and approachable to us. His life demonstrates that God understands everything about living as a human being. In Christ, God is with us. But these verses remind us that Jesus is still God. He made everything and owns everything. Unless we continually acknowledge Jesus' greatness, we will fail to appreciate the amazing grace He showed us by taking our place on the cross. God made peace with you through Jesus' death. He considered you worth that much. How will your life today demonstrate the way you value Him?

**Express It**

Read through Colossians 1:15–22 again, but use each phrase as a “starter” for a few prayerful comments to God about how much you appreciate who He is and what He did. For example: “Thank you God that I was once Your enemy, but now because I know Jesus, I am your friend” (vv.21–22). Take long enough to let each part of what Jesus did for you settle into your heart and mind.

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