

THE ULTIMATE WHY

Living Our Lives
For God's Glory

COLOSSIANS 3:17



RESIST THE SHIFT

Colossians 1:15-23

A. PRAISE (O WORSHIP THE KING)

Recognition of Christ's Supremacy

Key Word: Sustainer

A Image of Invisible God [ikon] (1:15a)

Firstborn of all creation [prototokos] (1:15b-16)

B He is before all things (1:17a)

C In Him all things are held together (1:17b)

B' He is the head of the body, the church (1:18a)

A' He is the beginning

The Firstborn from the dead (1:18b-20)

B. RESPONSE (RESIST THE SHIFT)

1. The Problem: Identifying the Issue (1:21)
2. The Solution: Mission Reconciliation (1:22a)
3. The Presentation: Operation Holiness (1:22b)
4. The Challenge: Continue [epimemo] (1:23)
 - a. Stable [themelioó] - strong foundation
 - b. Steadfast [hedraois] - securely positioned

Discussion Questions

1. What is your favorite Psalm, Hymn, or Worship Song? Why?
2. Read Colossians 1:15-20. As you read through these verses, note all the reasons why Jesus Christ is absolutely superior. [For example, all things were created through Him (vv. 15–16), and He is the head of the church (v. 18)] Which phrases stood out to you? Take some time to think about why those verses make Jesus worthy of obedience and worship. [Abide]
3. Read Colossians 1:23 and I Corinthians 15:58. How have you changed since being saved through Christ? What is the secret to staying steadfast in your faith?
4. Take time every day this week to connect with the Lord focusing on staying rooted in His steadfast love for you.

COLOSSIANS 1:15-23 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be **preeminent**.¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

HEBREWS 1:1-4 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. 3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

PSALM 102:25-27 (HEBREWS 1:10-12) Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.²⁶ They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away,²⁷ but you are the same, and your years have no end.

ISAIAH 51:12-13a (POWER OF GOD AS CREATOR)

"I, I am he who comforts you; who are you that you are afraid of man who dies, of the son of man who is made like grass,¹³ and have forgotten the Lord, your Maker, who stretched out the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth . . ."

EPHESIANS 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,⁴ even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

I CORINTHIANS 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

THEY ULTIMATE WHY?
TAKING A DEEPER LOOK AT WHO WE ARE,
WHAT WE DO, AND WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO