Christ the King

NOVEMBER 22, 2026 · COLOSSIANS 1:15-23 · PASTOR MATT ERICKSON

"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." (Colossians 1:15)

Christ the King of Creation (1:15-17)

- The image of the invisible God
- The firstborn over all creation
- In Him all things created

Christ the King of Reconciliation (Colossians 1:18-20)

- The head of the body, the church
- The beginning and firstborn from among the dead
- God's fullness in Him
- Reconciling and making peace
- In all things He has the supremacy

Christ Our King (Colossians 1:21-23)

- From alienation to reconciliation
- Continuing in the faith
- Established
- Firm
- Immovable

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. If you were to describe why Jesus is important, what are 2-4 things you would share?
2. This week we celebrate Christ the King, giving our attention to words from the Apostle Paul in Colossians 1:15-23. Whether on your own or with a group, begin your study in prayer asking God to speak to you through Scripture, and then read that portion aloud.
3. *Background: Some scholars think Colossians 1:15-20 is part of a pre-existing Christian poem or hymn Paul makes use of to illustrate his own thoughts in words familiar to his readers.*
4. Paul highlights two important features of God's work in Jesus Christ in this section. The first of those features is found in v. 15-18a. What do you think it means that Jesus is "the image of the invisible God"?
5. The word 'firstborn' can mean either literally being born before others or it could mean having precedence over other things or people. Based on what we see in v. 16-17, which of these meanings do you think is accurate to the sense of v. 15? Why?
6. What do you think Paul is trying to communicate about Christ's place in God's creation work in v. 15-18a?
7. Midway through v. 18, Paul turns toward a second feature of God's work through Christ, that of reconciliation. The word 'firstborn' is used again here. What do you think Paul wants us to understand this time about Jesus as the firstborn?
8. These verses are more focused on Christ's earthly life and ministry. How would you say Jesus had God's fullness in Him during His earthly life and work?
9. According to v. 19-20, how did God reconcile and make peace through Christ? Why is this important?
10. Paul turns a corner in v. 21, aiming the same themes of the previous verses at how believers live in response God. What does Paul say here about our life with and for God?
11. What is one thing you sense God is bringing to your attention through this week's study? If you are with a small group, discuss that with one another and then pray about what you shared. If you are on your own, write it down, pray about it, and consider sharing your thoughts with someone this week.

DIG DEEPER

- **Exploring Faith—**Whether you believe it or not, what difference do you think it would make if you believed that Jesus is the King of Creation?
- **Growing in Faith—**This section of Colossians is extraordinarily powerful. Consider memorizing some or all of this section (Colossians 1:15-23). When you are faced with trials or difficulties remember these words to strengthen your faith.
- **Centered in Faith—**As we prepare for the Advent and Christmas seasons, it is a meaningful time to share our faith in Jesus with others. Who is God placing on your mind or heart in this way ? Pray about this. Consider having a conversation, inviting someone over for a meal or Christmas cookies, or more.