

## STUDY 2

# CHRIST IS ALL

COLOSSIANS 1:15-23

Sometimes it's easy to think we need something more. It seems we're constantly bombarded with advertising that tells us that what we have is not enough. That leaves us dissatisfied and craving for something that we're lacking in our experience of life: We need a bigger and better house. We need more money. We need more from our relationships. We need more time. More opportunities for our kids. We need more...

That same desire for something more can creep into our relationship with God, as we search for the 'missing piece' that will complete what we think is lacking in our faith.

What are you tempted to think you need more of in your Christian life? What's lacking?

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# THE GREATNESS OF JESUS

It's common for us to think we're lacking something in our Christian life. But Paul wants to remind the Colossians what they DO HAVE in Jesus already. (And that it's enough!)

## Read Colossians 1:15-20

1. In these verses Paul describes who Jesus is. Spend some time noting what Paul says about how Jesus relates to the following:

**God**

**Creation**

**The Church**

## *John 1:1-18*

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup> Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind... <sup>14</sup> The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth...<sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

2. What do you think it means that Jesus is "the image of the invisible God"? (see also John 1:1-18).
3. What should be our attitude to Jesus if all things were created by him, for him, and all things hold together in him?

4. What does it mean for Jesus to be the head of the body, the church, and for the church to be his body?

5. Psalm 89:27 (see sidebar) gives a picture of the authority and importance of the “firstborn” King. What’s the significance of the fact that Jesus is both the ‘firstborn over creation’ (v15), and the ‘firstborn from among the dead’ (v18)?

6. Paul talks a lot about who Jesus really is and the position he holds. What has that enabled Jesus to achieve? How so? (v19-20)

7. Is there anywhere in your own life where you’ve been treating Jesus as if he’s smaller than he really is? How could it change your life if you remembered that he is fully God?

***Psalm 89:27***

God said of David, king of Israel: “I will appoint him to be my firstborn, the most exalted of the kings of the earth.”

Paul reminds the Colossians of who Jesus really is. In a sense these verses answer Paul’s own prayer in 1:9 that they would know more of God’s will, by giving them the big picture of who Jesus is and what he’s done. He’s bigger and more glorious and more central to the universe than they ever imagined. The universe is made by him, through him and for him. He is God himself, the only one with the qualifications to bring reconciliation between God and humanity. There’s nothing more that can be added to the gospel, and nothing more that needs to be added to their Christian lives. Jesus has given those who follow him everything they need: He is enough!

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# JESUS IS ENOUGH

Read Colossians 1:21-23.

8. How does Paul describe people before they received Jesus?

What difference has the gospel made to the Colossians?

9. Do you ever consider yourself to be reconciled with God, on track to be presented to him “holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation” on the last day? What impact does that have on how you live?

10. Paul reminds the Colossians that they must *continue* in *this gospel*, ‘established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel.’ Why are “false gospels” and “alternative growth plans” a danger to that, and how might they ‘move’ you?

11. Paul has spent most of this passage emphasising the sheer awesomeness of Jesus and what he achieved on the cross. How does this connect with the idea of “continuing” and “standing firm”? What’s he trying to do? **(Look ahead to Colossians 2:8-10)**

*Pray for one another, that every day you’ll remember Jesus to be who he truly is: the great God-man, supreme in absolutely everything.*

D.J.W.