



Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

Short Study 064: How Great is Jesus?

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Read Colossians 1:15-20

Introduction: Throughout the entire history of the Church there have been those who deny the true nature of Jesus. Many today will acknowledge that Jesus was a good man, but will not accept that He is truly God. Back in the days of Paul, it was the other way round. There were sects that believed Jesus was God, but not that he was a real man – that He only appeared to be real. Paul was at pains to expose this error in his letter to the Colossians. What Paul wrote is equally valid for correcting today's error. Ten things that Paul told the Colossians about Jesus:

- 1. v15 He is the image of God.** God cannot be seen, but Jesus is a perfect portrait (the meaning of the Greek word for 'image'). See what Jesus said (John 14:9).
- 2. v15 He is the firstborn of creation.** Jesus was there *before* all things (see also verse 17). This also means *Superior* over all things and all beings. See what the Apostle John wrote (John 1:1).
- 3. v16 He is the Creator of all things.** See what John wrote (John 1:3). Compare this with Hebrews 1:2. What do you think Hebrews means by the 'worlds' (plural)?
- 4. v16 Everything was created for Him.** See what the 24 Elders in Heaven said (Rev 4:11). The King James Version translates this as "***for thy pleasure they are and were created***"
- 5. v17 He holds all things together** He is not only the creator of the universe but the also the sustainer of the universe. See what the author of Hebrews says (Heb 1:3)
- 7. v18 He is the head of the Church.** Members of the Church are Christ's body, under His control. See what Paul wrote to the Corinthians? (1 Cor 12:27).
- 8. v18 He is entitled to preeminence (supremacy)** (NIV *first in everything*)
See what John the Baptist said (Matt 3:11).
- 9. v19 He is the One in whom God fully dwells.** (NLT *God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ.*) See what the Apostle John wrote (John 1:14).
- 10.v20 He is the One through whom God reconciles a fallen world to Himself.** See what the Good Shepherd said (Luke 15:6).

To think about: Do I have an adequate appreciation of who Jesus really is?

To dig deeper: See what Jesus said of Himself, in John 8:58, John 10:30, and John 14:9 John 17:21. Consult a Bible Dictionary or theological textbook to explore more about the divinity of Christ.