

**“the firstborn over  
all creation.”**

**Colossians 1:15-23**

**“the firstborn over all creation.”**

**Colossians 1:15-16**

**15** The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created by him and for him.

**“the firstborn over all creation.”**

**“The point is that in Christ the invisible God became visible. He shared the same substance as God and made God’s character known in this earthly sphere of existence. The revelation of God in Christ is such that we can actually see him, even with all of our limitations”**

**Richard Melick**

**“the firstborn over all creation.”**

**John 1:1-3**

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was with God in the beginning.

**3** Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

**“the firstborn over all creation.”**

**John 14:8-11**

**8** Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” **9** Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

**10** Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.

**11** Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.

**“the firstborn over all creation.”**

**“Thus two assertions are made regarding Jesus. In his work toward us as revealer of God, he manifests God to us. In his work toward creation, he is prominent over it. Finally, the passage affirms that creation exists “for him.” The literal expression is “unto him.” This means that Jesus is the goal of all creation. Everything exists to display his glory, and ultimately he will be glorified in his creation.”**

**“the firstborn over all creation.”**

**Colossians 1:17-18**

**17** 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 and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

**“the firstborn over all creation.”**

## **Ephesians 1:22-23**

**22** And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

**“the firstborn over all creation.”**

**1 Corinthians 15:20-23**

**20** But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. **21** For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. **22** For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. **23** But each in turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

**“the firstborn over all creation.”**

**“The purpose of the resurrection is stated here as “so that in everything he might have the supremacy.” In light of this context, the word “everything” must be understood as the creation, over which Jesus reigns as king, and the order of redemption, over which he reigns as head. He is the central figure, therefore, in both domains. Just as creation depends on him for its existence and order, redemption depends on him, and he is the primary figure in it.”**

# **“For God was pleased”**

## **Colossians 1:19-20**

**19** For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,  
**20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

# **“For God was pleased”**

**“The “fullness” language here and throughout the letter is reminiscent of its use in the OT, where it was said that God “filled” the temple with His presence... Jesus not only bears God’s glory, but all that God is dwells in Him. He possesses the wisdom, power, Spirit, and glory of God. To say that all this divine fullness dwells in Jesus is to say that He is fully God.”**

**ESV Study Bible**

**“For God was pleased”**

**“So when Christ died on the cross, he made peace possible between God and humans, and he restored in principle the harmony for the physical world, though the full realization of the latter will come only when Christ returns.”**

**NIV 2011 Study Bible**

# **“For God was pleased”**

**“As the “Prince of Peace” Jesus will ultimately quell all rebellion against God and His purposes. For believers, this means present reconciliation to God as his friends. As for nonbelievers and the demonic powers, Christ’s universal reign of peace will be enforced on them, for their rebellion will be decisively defeated by Christ as conquering King, so they can no longer do any harm in the universe.”**

# **“This is the gospel”**

## **Colossians 1:21-22**

**21** Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. **22** But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—

# **“This is the gospel”**

**“The former condition [v.21] was desperate. These Gentiles were far removed from the promises of God’s blessings. Further, their minds were opposed to God, their actions were evil rather than good, and they willingly assumed an anti-God posture. They were God’s enemies.”**

# **“This is the gospel”**

## **Ephesians 2:1-2**

**1** As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, **2** in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

**“This is the gospel”**

**Romans 1:21**

**For although they knew God,  
they neither glorified him as  
God nor gave thanks to him,  
but their thinking became  
futile and their foolish hearts  
were darkened.**

# **“This is the gospel”**

**“In such a condition, the possibility of reconciliation seemed remote. They would not naturally choose another course of action. That was their former condition. God took the initiative to change all of that. The simple reminder of who they used to be served to bring adoration and renewed commitment to the Lord who changed their lives.”**

**“This is the gospel”**

**Colossians 1:23**

**if you continue in your faith,  
established and firm, and do not move  
from the hope held out in the gospel.  
This is the gospel that you heard and  
that has been proclaimed to every  
creature under heaven, and of which  
I, Paul, have become a servant.**

**“This is the gospel”**

**2 Corinthians 5:17**

**Therefore, if anyone is in  
Christ, he is a new creation;  
The old has gone, the new  
has come!**

# **“This is the gospel”**

## **Philippians 2:12-13**

**12** Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, **13** for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

# Applications

- **Jesus is Lord**
- **Without Christ the world has no purpose**
- **He has the whole world in His hands**

# Final Thoughts

## 2 Corinthians 5:21

**God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**