

## Argentina 2017 - Colossians 1:15-23

Phil Twente, 2/25/14

### SONG – HE IS LORD – Festival Choir

*He is Lord, he is Lord, he is risen from the dead and he is Lord;  
ev'ry knee shall bow, ev'ry tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. (2X)*

### OPENING PRAYER

#### INTRODUCTION:

Paul has been reminding the church at Colosse, what Jesus has already done for them; for us

v. 12 made us fit for heaven

v. 13 He's delivered us from the spiritual darkness; He's made us a part of His family, made us the object of His love

v. 14 redeemed us through His blood; He's forgiven us of sins

Now the Holy Spirit gives us **one of the most beautiful descriptions in all the Bible of who He is and what He has done.**

Verses 15-23 break into his theme of the epistle - Let's look at what the Holy Spirit writing through the Apostle Paul brings forth to us this short letter to the Colossians.

WE SEE: The preeminence Jesus Christ; the Sovereignty of Christ;, the magnificence of Christ.

The epistle is addressed to some degree in light of false teacher and their false teaching, which was beginning to creep in, defaming Christ, taking away from His Deity; adding the worship of angels; working through different strata and layers, Jewishness, the keeping of Jewish dietary laws, feasts,

This is why we've heard of this little church in Colosse. What is significant is what was written to it has been a blessing to us! A blessing to the church for 2000 years. This is what we should understand about His Son!

False teaching can lead us in redefining who Jesus is. Also man's practices and dogma can lead us to distort who we think Jesus is, how we worship Him and how we present Him.

God's teachings in the Bible are the correct view. May we see Jesus more clearly right here than ever before, as we see here the true picture the true representation of who Jesus is, the superiority of Christ and His absolute preeminence!

#### The Preeminence of Christ

(speaking now of Jesus, the superiority of Christ and the pre-eminence of Christ)

#### Please read versus 15-18

Col 1:15 *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*

Col 1:15 *El cual es la imagen del Dios invisible, el primogénito de toda criatura.*

**The image** (*eikōn*).

The representation. Like looking in a mirror! The exact image. Jesus is the very stamp (the direct imprint, exact replica) of God the Father as He was before the Incarnation

Joh 17:5 *And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with*

*You before the world was.*

### **Heb 1:1-4 The Supremacy of God's Son**

*[1] God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, [2] has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; [3] who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, [4] having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.*

***Of the invisible God*** (*tou theou tou aoratou*).

Jesus Christ has made the invisible God visible. He who sees Jesus has seen God

***Joh 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father;***

***The first born*** (*prōtotokos*)

This word can describe either priority in time or supremacy in rank. As Paul used it here, he probably had both ideas in mind, with Jesus being before all created things and Jesus being of a supremely different order than all created things. That firstborn, the preeminent One over all creation.

By Him all things were created! Not the first thing that came into existence. But He preexisted! ***the firstborn over all creation.***

Jehovah Witnesses say He is the firstborn of all creation – a grand angel, the brother of Lucifer. He is a created being! The greatest of created beings. But read on –

***Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.***

*Col 1:16 Porque por él fueron criadas todas las cosas que están en los cielos, y que están en la tierra, visibles é invisibles; sean tronos, sean dominios, sean principados, sean potestades; todo fué criado por él y para él.*

Notice the three prepositions here;

***by Him, through Him and for Him***

***For by Him*** (and here we get it. If they would read it in context they would have it. For by Him. Who? Jesus Christ!)

***all things***“ (5X – All things”) ***were created,***

*John said in the beginning was the Word, the Word, referring to Jesus, and the Word was with God and the Word was God, the same was in the beginning with God and all things were made by Him? Without Him was not anything made that was made.*

Now Paul is making that same declaration. For by Him all things were created

***that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.:***

Now, these are angels. These are rankings of angelic beings. He created all of the angels. So He created everything, Things that you see and things that you don't see. The Spirit realm, that we don't see, as well as the material realm, that we do see.

He is the Creator.

***Neh 9:6 You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, The heaven of heavens, with all their host, The earth and everything on it, The seas and all that is in them, And You preserve them all.***

(the reason that they exist is because of You ) *The host of heaven worships You.*

***all things were created through Him,***

If He is the origin, it has to have a destiny too. He is that destiny! Heaven is the real thing! His glory is the real thing! It's all by Him through Him! Science can't give us origins. Theologians explain origins - it's all through Christ, all headed toward Christ!

(But Paul goes one step further) ***and for him:*** He is the object of all creation. He is not only the Creator but the object of creation. You were created for Him!

*Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

***Col 1:17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist*** (cohere).

*Col 1:17 Y él es antes de todas las cosas, y por él todas las cosas subsisten:*

The word, ***consist***, is literally, **held together**. When we talk about the creation of invisible things, it would include atoms --electrons, protons—He created all things. And we know that all matter is made up of invisible particles, known as atoms. We know that atoms are made up of electrons and protons. The nucleus of an atom is the proton, which has a positive charge. The electrons are the negative charges that spin around. Now Coulombs' law of electricity, speaks of the repelling force of positive charges.

If you have played with magnets, you know what that's all about. You know that opposite poles attract and like poles, repel. Trying to put the positive poles of a magnet together, you find them repelling. They push apart.

Example - 1 gram of protons 1/154 pound, one on each pole of the earth, 8000 miles apart. You would need 50,000# of pressure, to hold them together-the force to push apart would be that great. But you put the opposite poles together and they attract.

Now look at atomic fission, the way it was created was to take slow moving neutrons and bombard the nucleus of the atoms, the positive charges in the heart of the atom. And by bombarding the atom with these slow moving neutrons, they were able to upset the molecular balance

They were able to release the positive charges so that the positive charges responded according to their nature and this is to repel each other.

The tremendous atomic blasts are caused by the upsetting of the molecular structure of an atom, causing the positive charges to respond according of their own nature of repelling each other.

As they repel we know the tremendous force that is generated when we release the atoms or the positive charges within an atom, they repel against each other.

Now, it takes a stronger force than that which is released, to hold the atoms together. What holds it together? **Jesus Christ! He's holding all things** – He created all things. Now He sustains it all. If it weren't for Him every thing wouldn't exist. The very nature of atomic structure, our whole universe should just be blown apart! As all of the positive charges in the nucleus of all the atoms, were released, it would, just, poof, it's all gone into oblivion!

Now Peter seems to speak about something like that happening one day as this whole universe is going to be disappearing, dissolved with a fervent heat.

***2 Peter 3:10--But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.***

Tremendous! What will happen? God will just release His grip. The whole thing will go!

Think of the power of Jesus, holding together all of the atoms in the universe! By Him all things are held together! The wonderful power of Jesus!

***Col 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from (ek-out from among) the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.***

*Col 1:18 Y él es la cabeza del cuerpo que es la iglesia; él que es el principio, el primogénito de los muertos, para que en todo tenga el primado.*

***And He is the head of the body, the church:***

Jesus Christ is the head of the body, His church. We, as members of the body of Christ. We are not here to run things. We are here to take orders. We are here to discover His will, what He wants for the church. Thus we seek His wisdom, His guidance. We make ourselves available to Him to be led by the Spirit, acknowledging that Jesus is the head of the church. He is the head of the body, the church. Not the Pope!

***who is the beginning, the firstborn***

Again, the idea of the firstborn from the dead. So He was the first One to rise from the dead, not to die again. Lazarus was raised but only to die again. Jairus' daughter was raised only to die again. But He is the firstborn ***from the dead***; Lazarus, who were just resuscitated. The resurrection of Jesus Christ. It began with Him. It will end with the martyred saints.

***that in all things he might have the preeminence – (the head of everything!).***

Now, you are part of the “all things” that He created. Thus, you are part of the all things, in which He should have preeminence.

### **The question is, HOW PREEMINENT IS HE IN YOUR LIFE?**

Is He above everything else? That, in all things, He should have the preeminence.

Does He have the preeminence in my life, my voice, my attitude, cutting corners, stretching the truth?

When we want to turn on pornography? Time – how good use am I making of time? Forgiving? Going the extra mile? Jesus wants to be with me!

Or do I maintain some little control. Has He really gotten into my heart? Satan always tries to get rid of the Head! To cut the church off from the head!

### **PLEASE READ VERSUS 19-23**

***Col 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,***

*Col 1:19 Por cuanto agradó al Padre que en él habitase toda plenitud,*

It pleased the Father *that in Him all the fullness* (sum total)

***Fullness:*** -- This was really just another way to say that Jesus is truly God. The fullness has been put into Jesus Christ. Not into a church; not into a priesthood; not into a building; not into a sacrament; not into the saints; not into a method or a program, but *in Jesus Christ Himself*. It was put into Him as a “distribution point” – so that those who wanted more of God and all that He is, could find it in Jesus Christ.

***should dwell*** – a sense of a permanent dwelling; Paul wanted to emphasize the idea that Jesus was not *temporarily* God, but is *permanently* God.

That He has the preeminence. This is the Father's pleasure.

***Col 1:20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.***

*Col 1:20 Y por él reconciliar todas las cosas á sí, pacificando por la sangre de su cruz, así lo que está en la tierra como lo que está en los cielos.*

**And by Him to reconcile all things to Himself:** -- Jesus' atoning work is full and broad.

**by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace**

Now we deal with the things we have through Him. We had redemption through His blood, a little earlier.

**through the blood of his cross,** -- That is, peace with God. Man was alienated from God. Man was at enmity with God. He was in rebellion against God. For sin is rebellion against God, against the law of God. But Jesus not only provided the forgiveness of our sins, but now He has made it possible for us to live at peace with God, through the blood of His cross because the sin is put away.

**Col 1:21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled**

*Col 1:21 A vosotros también, que erais en otro tiempo extraños y enemigos de ánimo en malas obras, ahora empero os ha reconciliado*

**Who once were alienated:**

literally "transferred to another owner." This transfer of ownership, from God to Satan and self, has affected us in both *mind* and *behavior*.

Belonging to the race of Adam, we are born **alienated** from God. Then as individuals, we each choose to accept and embrace that alienation with our **wicked works**.

**Once were alienated:**

But now through what Jesus has done, this means that in Jesus we are **no longer alienated**.

The difference between a believer and a non-believer isn't merely forgiveness; there is a complete change of status.

**Yet now He has reconciled:**

That is, He has brought us together! He has brought us unto the Father. We are presented to God in Christ and by the blood of His cross. The war is over. We have peace with God now. We are reconciled unto God through Him!

**Col 1:22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—**

*Col 1:22 En el cuerpo de su carne por medio de muerte, para haceros santos, y sin mancha, é irreprochables delante de él:*

That should just cause you start to shout! He is going to present you, holy, blameless in the sight of God! Glory! Hallelujah! That's wonderful!

One day when Jesus presents me to the Father, it is through Him that I will be presented.

**Jude 1:24-25 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, [25] To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.**

Believe it or not, holy, blameless and above reproach in His sight! But notice now, there is a warning!

**Col 1:23 if (Since) indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.**

**Col 1:23** Si empero permanecéis fundados y firmes en la fe, y sin moveros de la esperanza del

*evangelio que habéis oído; el cual es predicado á toda criatura que está debajo del cielo; del cual yo Pablo soy hecho ministro.*

***if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast,***

**THIS IS A STRONG WARNING.**

It includes the danger against false teaching, which always takes away from who Christ is!

**WE ARE TO STICK WITH CHRIST.**

**WHO, WHAT CAN COMPARE?**

It's only when we lose the awesomeness of Christ that we give an ear to false teaching. By continuing in the faith. There is nothing else to offer us, because we have everything in Christ.

We have it all! Nothing can compare.

What if you don't continue in the faith? Then, it's an uncertain future. But He is going to present us if we continue grounded and steadfast in the faith.

Don't worry about it. Don't make it an issue. Just do it! Just abide in Him! It's through faith in Him that you will be presented, holy and blameless and above reproach.

We do need to remember that over and over, Paul warns that those who are living in sexually impure lives are not going to inherit the kingdom of God. You may say, but isn't God a God of grace? Yes He is. But don't use grace as a cloak to try and cover your immorality and idolatry.

***Col 1:23 if (Since) indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.***

## **SUMMARY**

**In Closing! Oh how awesome and wonderful our Lord Jesus Christ is!**

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation

He is the Creator of all things; by Him, through Him and for Him.

He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

He is the head of the body, the church,

He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

He is the One who pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell,

He is the One to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

He has reconciled you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works.

He is the One in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—

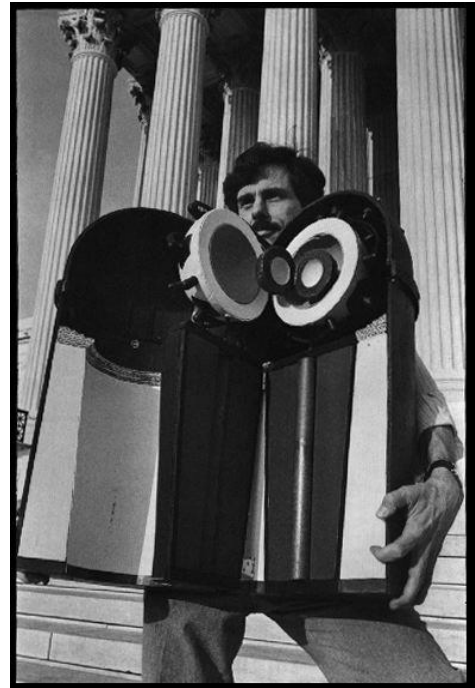
## **CLOSING PRAYER**



Exhibit to Col 1:17 *And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.* - An example of the force of letting the repelling protons “go”. Jesus Christ is holding it all together!

### How To Make an H-Bomb (or Thermonuclear bomb)

[Howard Morland](#) wrote a magazine article explaining how an "H-Bomb" -- or "thermonuclear bomb" -- is made, using only publicly available information. In the photo, he is standing on the steps of the US Supreme Court holding a cut-away model of the H-bomb. An H-bomb is a three-stage weapon: fission, fusion, and then fission again. The first stage, called the "trigger" (the [black ball](#) at the top), is a small [plutonium bomb](#) similar to the one dropped on Nagasaki in 1945. The energy release at this stage is mainly due to [nuclear fission](#) -- because the atoms of plutonium are split. [Tritium](#) is often added to the centre of the plutonium core to "boost" the fission explosion with some additional fusion energy. Boosted or not, however, the only importance of this first-stage explosion is to irradiate and heat the material in the central column to 100 million degrees celsius so that a much more powerful fusion reaction can be started there.



The second stage explosion is due to nuclear fusion in the central column. The main fusion reaction involves concentrated deuterium and tritium (both heavy isotopes of hydrogen) -- which become spontaneously available when neutrons from the first stage explosion bombard a solid material called "lithium deuteride" located in the central column. When this hydrogen-rich mix is heated to 100 million degrees, the deuterium and tritium atoms "fuse" together, releasing enormous amounts of energy. This is the "H" or "thermonuclear" part of the bomb.

Then comes the third stage. The fusion reaction gives off an incredible burst of extremely powerful neutrons -- so powerful that they can split or "fission" atoms of uranium-238 (called "[depleted uranium](#)") -- which is impossible at lower energy levels. This third stage more than doubles the power of the explosion, and produces most of the radioactive fallout from the weapon.

Unlike fission bombs, which rely only on nuclear fission, and which can achieve explosions equivalent to thousands of tons of TNT ("kilotons"), the power of an H-bomb or thermonuclear weapon has no practical limit -- it can be made as powerful as you want, by adding more deuterium/tritium to the second stage. Most H-bombs are measured in "megatons" (equivalent to the explosive power of MILLIONS of tons of TNT -- hundreds of times, or even a thousand times more powerful than a fission bomb).

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photo by [Robert Del Tredici](#) from his book entitled  
**At Work In The Fields Of The Bomb** (Harper and Row, 1987)