

## **JESUS MADE IT ALL!** **Colossians 1:15-17**

**Biblical teaching on creation isn't just one isolated passage of Scripture.**

Some people assume that; then make isolated passage poetic or mythical instead of a factual account of God's work—literally as HE describes it.

These people don't realize how **integrated** the creation account is with the rest of Scripture –both **Old Testament and New Testament**.

**Teaching of Genesis 1-5 is reenforced in other O.T. passages:**

**Ex 20:11** *“For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day.”*

**Ps 8:3–4** *“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,<sup>4</sup> what is man that you are mindful of him?”* [ plus others!]

New Testament passages **integrate Gen. 1-5 with N.T. doctrinal teaching.**

These passages, along with others, make clear that **Jesus Himself** along with **N.T. writers** –**inspired by the Holy Spirit** believe **Gen 1-5 is historical record of what actually happened.**

Were they misled into believing a lie, or misrepresent what happened? You have to include **Jesus and the Holy Spirit** in that assessment also!

**GENESIS 1-5 IS INTEGRATED INTO ...**

\* **The definition of faith**—it's the prime example of what faith is.  
**Heb. 11:1-3** *“Faith is being certain of what we can't see ... by faith*

*we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."*

Faith is believing what God says about creation.

Faith is believing that God spoke and it happened (**Gen. 1**).

**\* The nature of marriage.**

Jesus affirms the permanence of marriage based on **Gen. 2**  
**Matt. 19:4-6** (Mk 10) *"Haven't you read that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'?"*

Paul uses Gen. 2 the same way in **Eph. 5:31**

**\* The doctrine of salvation**

**Man's sinful condition** is related to rejection of creation.

**Rom. 1:20-26** **20** *"Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse."*

**25** *"They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised [blessed]."*

**Imputation of Christ's righteousness**—Rom. 5 Paul affirms that God sees us in Christ—we're declared righteous in Him—

Paul compares God's grace through Christ to Adam's fall in **Gen. 3**.

**Rom 5:12-14** *"Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned... <sup>14</sup>death reigned from the time of Adam*

*to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.*

Adam's sin affects all creation; it brought death into the world. All creation suffers the consequences of Gen. 3.

**\* The Person of Christ**

**Col. 1:15-17** Jesus is God, because of His role in creation  
**Gen. 1-2**

*“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.  
<sup>16</sup> 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 were created by Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together.*

**Jn 1:3** *“Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.”*

**Rom 11:36** *“For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.”*

Paul uses this truth, based on Gen 1, to establish that

**Jesus is God, the Creator and Sustainer of the world.**

In Col., Paul faces **Judaizers**—cult doing greatest harm in his day.

They contend Jesus' death, by itself, **isn't enough** to make us right with God

Something else—some effort on our part—must be necessary.

... if not to be saved, at least to be totally acceptable to Him!

Paul responds: **In Christ, God has done EVERYTHING for us.**

**PAUL'S PRAYER** for them **1:3-23**

**His thanksgiving 1:3-8** –thanks God for work already apparent in them

**His petition** for them (and for us!) **1:9-23**

**His request: that we might know God's will 1:9**

–our lives controlled by knowledge of what He wants to do

**His purpose: that we might walk worthily 1:10-23**

–walk in a way that is worthy of Him and pleasing to Him

In confronting legalism, Paul puts his finger on **the problem:**

**WE FAIL TO APPRECIATE ALL GOD HAS DONE FOR US.**

*He urges us to thank God for all He's done—to make us aware of it.*

Man owned small estate, wanted to sell it. Realtor got ad ready, read it to him. "Read that again," => "I don't think I'll sell. I've been looking for a place like this all my life."

As we thank God for what He's done, our awareness of His provision increases.

**=> 4 REASONS TO GIVE THANKS TO GOD 1:12b-23**

Correspond to **FOUR PROBLEMS WE USED TO HAVE:**

**We were:**

\* **Without inheritance 1:12**

\* **Subject to the dominion of darkness 1:13**

\* **Guilty because of our sin 1:14**

\* **Alienated from God 1:21**

We used to be *enemies* of God, condemned because of sin and rebellion.

God has given us new state, not based on law, but on His work in us.

*What has God done for us? **What should we thank Him for?***

## **FOR QUALIFYING US FOR THE INHERITANCE 1:12**

We *never* fulfilled requirements to deserve inheritance of God's people.

We enjoy it because **God** did what's necessary in us.

Previously we were left out of promises God made to His people, Now, in Christ, we're co-heirs, co-participants with God's people

Our gratitude is NOT for the inheritance itself,

but for having made us capable of receiving it—for what He's done in us

## **FOR RESCUING US FROM DARKNESS**

Inheritance is for those walking in the light (1:12b).

We weren't walking in light; we were walking in darkness

God freed us from dominion of the shadows.

## **FOR BRINGING US INTO HIS KINGDOM 1:13b-20**

God made us citizens of His beloved Son's kingdom,

*How did God bring about this change? 1:14*

It's accomplished by *redemption* => purchase of slave from marketplace.

*Forgiveness* frees us from the debt we owed to God.

God freed us, because of work Christ finished on the cross.

**When we begin thanking God for these things, we realize that He's already provided everything we need. *Nothing's missing!***

[Mention of all God has done for us forces Paul to focus on Christ's role]

**Who He is and what He's done for us.**

Paul wrote this to exalt Jesus;

cults use this to demonstrate that Jesus *isn't* God.

Paul never intended that these affirmations should limit Christ in any way!

Uses every means possible to show Jesus is God;

He's done *everything* for us.

## **HIS PERSON—WHO IS JESUS?**

**Mom asks boy** about SS "We had new teacher. I think it's Jesus' grandma." "Why?" "All she did was show us pictures of Jesus and tell stories about Him."

### **1. Jesus is "the image of the invisible God" 15a**

**"Image" conveys two ideas:**

**Likeness**—used to make coins; Original pressed in wax-like substance. After it hardens, it's used as mold to make exact duplicates.

**Revelation**—Copy reveals nature of original:

Christ reveals nature of invisible God;

In Him we see what God's like.

**Jn 1:18** "*No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only [the only God], who is at the Father's side, has made him known.*"

### **2. Jesus is "the firstborn over all creation" 15b**

Before examining expression, we must make 3 observations:

**Paul's PURPOSE is to EXALT Christ; NEVER to limit Him.**

**"Firstborn" never used to emphasize born.**

Never used to prove someone was born.

Focus always on FIRST—demonstrates He's *first* => primary heir.

Jesus is NUMBER 1, above all who form part of creation.

*Not used to identify Christ with creation,  
but to distinguish Him from creation.*

“What does firstborn mean? **3 related meanings:**

**Precedence.** Christ existed *before* all creation came into being.

**Superiority.** He’s first. He’s NUMBER ONE over all of creation.

**Inheritance.** In Israelite family, firstborn was heir of everything

### **3. Jesus is the One for Whom all creation was made**

**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 were created by him and for him.”*

As Creator, as One for Whom it’s made, Jesus OWNS all that’s created.

That’s the rub! People don’t want to acknowledge Jesus’ right to rule!

That’s the main reason people reject the idea of creation.

—they don’t want to submit to the Creator!

***Impossible for Him to be one of things made.***

***He made everything.***

### **4. Jesus is eternal. 17**

*“He is before all things, and by him all things hold together.”*

**Paul distinguishes Jesus from everything in the universe.**

He isn’t part of it! He was there before it!

He holds it all together.

### **5. Jesus is “the Beginning” 18b**

He’s the “point of origin”—the source—of everything that exists.

*It all comes from and revolves around Him*

## 6. Jesus is Supreme—He has supremacy over everything 18d

Deserves 1<sup>st</sup> place over universe, all created things, God's people, my life!

## 7. The totality of God dwells in Jesus 19

Most important in list!

*“God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him.”*

“God” (NIV), or “the Father” (NAS), isn't in original text.

Added to help us understand that *God* is being discussed

Central expression = *“all the fullness.”*

*Fullness* refers to “totality” or “perfection”

—what's “complete” or “perfect.”

“The Perfect One” was pleased to dwell in Him.

=> *all that God is was in Christ.* God decided to reside in Jesus.

2:9 *“In Christ the totality of God dwells in bodily form!”*

Uniting affirmations, we must ask, *“Of whom can we affirm everything said about Christ in this passage?”*

**ONLY GOD!**

*Who is Christ?*

**God Himself, revealing Himself in visible form.**

**He is the Creator.**

**He deserves submission.**

**He deserves our worship.**

**ALL THAT GOD IS DWELLS IN JESUS**

**HIS WORK—WHAT HAS JESUS DONE?**

**1. Jesus created everything.** 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 were created by Him and for Him.”*

**Everything** on earth, everything in heaven was created by Him.

## **2. Jesus holds everything together. 17**

*“He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together.*

After He created it, God didn't go off & leave it to do its own thing.

Creation isn't like a big clock God winds up and lets run itself.

He sustains and controls everything.

We trust science to work, because He maintains it

Little girl concluded prayer: "Dear God, take care of Daddy and Mommy, take care of my baby brother, Grandma, and Grandpa...and please, God, take care of yourself, or else we're all sunk!"

## **3. Jesus reconciled everything. 19-20**

*“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,<sup>20</sup> 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.”*

He brought all things alienated by sin back into harmony with Himself

Christ provided way people of all kinds (diversity) can be at peace.

Christ, the Creator, came to earth to straighten out the mess man has made out of what He created.

Jesus is God Himself—the Creator of everything.

**All that God is was present in Him.**

When He died an adequate price was paid to reconcile all things to God.

**NOTHING MORE IS NEEDED.**

Man buying vacant house wanted to turn one room into a study; but objected to cupboard in corner. "I'll remove it," he said. "You can't!" "But I can do what I want, if I buy the house," "You can't do

what you want with that cupboard," answered realtor. "Why not?" "Is it protected by a clause in the deed?" "No, it's not on the deed; it's on the plan. You can't take away the cupboard without taking down the house, it's part of the structure."

If we take away Christ, we destroy the whole structure!

He's Creator and Sustainer of everything.

It ALL depends on Him.

Take away the Creator—and *everything* comes crashing down!

That's true for the whole world. But it's also true for our lives.

Try to leave Jesus out of our life, & it all comes crashing down!

### ***DON'T MISS THE REST OF THE STORY!***

Paul tells us **the final reason we give thanks to God:**

**Introduced by last of the things Jesus did: 1:21-23**

*"Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.<sup>22</sup> 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—<sup>23</sup>if you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel...."*

**Christ the Creator died,**

**that WE might be reconciled to God.**

IF we will trust Him.

Even though He created everything, the Creator cared enough about US, that He was willing to come to earth and die, to give us life!

***Will YOU trust the Creator, and receive the gift of life?***