

Colossians – Week 3 – Jesus our Creator – Bible Study Helps

Title: Jesus Christ: The Supreme Creator and Sustainer

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the divine nature of Jesus Christ, emphasizing His role as the Creator and Sustainer of all things. It delves into the concept of Jesus as the image of the invisible God, refuting misconceptions about His divinity. It stresses the importance of understanding Christ's supremacy over all creation, including both the visible and invisible realms. The sermon aims to strengthen believers' faith in Jesus' omnipotence and encourage trust in His sovereignty over every aspect of life.

Key Points:

- Jesus is the image of the invisible God, revealing God's nature to humanity
- Christ is not a created being but the one true God and Creator of all things
- Jesus is supreme over all creation, including heavenly and earthly realms
- Christ sustains all of creation moment by moment through His power
- Understanding Jesus' divinity is crucial for faith and combating false teachings

Scripture Reference:

- Colossians 1:15-17

Stories:

- A car wheel falling off while driving, illustrating God's protection and sustaining power
- Encountering Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses at a fair, highlighting the importance of understanding true biblical teachings about Christ's nature
- The future scenario of Jews discovering Jesus during the tribulation period through the book of Hebrews

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Discipleship and Small Group Guide: Jesus, Our Creator

Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God - He reveals God to us in a way we can comprehend.
2. Jesus is the Creator of all things, both visible and invisible.
3. Jesus sustains and holds all of creation together by His power.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon emphasized that Jesus is "the image of the invisible God." How does this help us understand who God is and His character?
2. How does the concept of Jesus being the one true God and Creator of all things challenge or affirm your current understanding of Him?
3. The sermon mentioned that many cults and false teachings try to diminish Jesus' deity. Why do you think it's crucial to maintain the belief that Jesus is fully God?
4. Reflect on the idea that Jesus holds all things together "by the word of His power." How might this truth impact your daily life and struggles?
5. The sermon touched on God's patience in allowing evil to continue. How do you reconcile God's love and power with the existence of suffering in the world?
6. How does understanding Jesus as Creator and Sustainer of all things affect your view of His ability to work in your personal circumstances?

Practical Applications:

1. Take time this week to observe nature or scientific discoveries. Reflect on how these things point to Jesus as Creator and Sustainer.

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2. Write down a current struggle or concern you have. Pray about it, acknowledging Jesus' power over all creation and His ability to work in your situation.
3. Share the truth about Jesus' deity with someone who may have misconceptions about who He is. Practice explaining it clearly and lovingly.
4. Spend time in worship, focusing on Jesus' attributes as Creator and Sustainer. How might this change your approach to praise and prayer?
5. Identify an area in your life where you need to trust God more. Make a commitment to surrender control, recognizing Jesus' supreme authority over all things.

Scripture for Further Study:

- John 1:1-14
- Colossians 2:9-10
- Hebrews 1:1-3
- Revelation 1:8

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we stand in awe of Your power and majesty as Creator and Sustainer of all things. Help us to truly grasp the implications of this truth in our daily lives. Increase our faith and trust in You, knowing that You hold all things together. May we live in a way that brings glory to You as the supreme Lord over all creation. Amen.

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Discipleship Questions

How does understanding Jesus as 'the image of the invisible God' impact your perception of His divinity and relationship to the Father?

In what ways might recognizing Jesus as the one true God and Creator and Sustainer of all things change how we approach our daily challenges and struggles?

How does the concept of Jesus being 'before all things' challenge modern scientific theories about the origin of the universe?

What are the implications of Jesus creating both the visible and invisible realms, including spiritual authorities and powers?

How might the idea that Jesus 'holds all things together' influence our trust in Him during times of personal or global chaos?

In light of Jesus' supreme authority over all creation, how should this affect our priorities and decision-making in life?

How does the portrayal of Jesus in Colossians 1 differ from or align with popular cultural representations of Him?

What are some practical ways we can acknowledge and respond to Jesus' role as Creator and Sustainer in our daily lives?

How might understanding Jesus as the 'firstborn of every creature' impact our view of His relationship to other religious figures or spiritual beings?

In what ways does the message of Colossians 1 challenge or affirm your current understanding of who Jesus is?

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A 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide

Day 1: The Image of the Invisible God

Reading: Colossians 1:15-20

Devotional: As we contemplate Jesus as "the image of the invisible God," we're invited to see God's nature revealed through Christ. Just as a photograph captures a moment, Jesus captures the essence of God's character - His love, compassion, and power. Today, reflect on how Jesus' life and teachings have helped you understand God's nature. How has your perception of God changed through knowing Christ? Pray for a deeper revelation of God's character in your daily life.

Day 2: Creator and Sustainer

Reading: Hebrews 1:1-3

Devotional: Today's passage reminds us that Jesus is not only the Creator but also the Sustainer of all things. Every breath, every heartbeat, every moment of existence is held together by His power. In light of this truth, consider the areas of your life where you struggle to trust God. Remember, the One who holds the universe together is intimately involved in your life. Bring your worries and fears to Him, knowing He has the power to sustain you through any challenge.

Day 3: Supreme Over All

Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Devotional: The supremacy of Christ is a central theme in today's reading. Jesus, though equal with God, humbled Himself for our sake. This supreme act of love resulted in His exaltation above all names. Reflect on areas in your life where pride may be hindering your relationship with God or others. How can you follow Christ's example of humility today? Ask God to help you see opportunities to serve others, putting their needs before your own.

Day 4: Redemption and Forgiveness

Reading: Colossians 1:13-14

Devotional: Today we focus on the incredible gift of redemption and forgiveness through Christ. We've been rescued from the domain of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of light. Take a moment to remember your life before Christ and the transformation that has occurred since. Are there areas where you still struggle to accept God's forgiveness? Spend time in prayer, thanking God for His redemption and asking for help to fully embrace the freedom He offers.

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Day 5: Hope in Suffering

Reading: Romans 8:18-25

Devotional: As we conclude our week, we're reminded that even in a world full of suffering, we have hope in Christ. He who created and sustains all things is working everything together for good.

Reflect on a current struggle in your life. How might God be using this difficulty to shape you or to bring about a greater purpose? Ask God for the strength to persevere and for eyes to see His work even in challenging times. Remember, our present sufferings pale in comparison to the glory that awaits us in Christ.