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Jesus is the source of all creation and the source of all salvation.

Colossians 1:15-20 (NLT) - Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation,<sup>16</sup> for through him God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. He made the things we can see and the things we can't see—such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through him and for him.<sup>17</sup> He existed before anything else, and he holds all creation together.<sup>18</sup> Christ is also the head of the church, which is his body. He is the beginning, supreme over all who rise from the dead. So he is first in everything.<sup>19</sup> For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ,<sup>20</sup> and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

## Study Guide

This last Sunday we looked at Colossians 1:15-20 and spoke about how Jesus is the source of all Creation and the source of all Salvation. What is pointed out in Colossians is the dual role that Christ plays as the source of life, firstly as the source of Creation at the beginning of time, and then as the source of New Life when He comes to be with us and ultimately dies on the cross so we can be reconciled to God.

Let's take a look at this from another scriptural source. Take a moment to read John 1:1-5. When you read again about the role of Jesus in Creation, what stands out to you? What are the implications of His role in bringing this all into being?

One of the repetitive themes of the creation story is the introduction of light to the darkness. Creation is described as the bringing of light and life to darkness and barrenness. Creation was not just about the act of manifesting rocks and trees and animals, but the introduction of light and life itself. Take a moment to read John 3 :1-21. As you read Jesus' teaching here about His role in our salvation, what stands out to you?

Jesus is pointing out that the very thing that happened in the act of creating everything must happen again. Sin has drawn people out of the presence of God and into the darkness and light will come again. For those that come to the light in the pursuit of God and His righteousness, their lives will serve as an example of the beauty of God.

So we have the opportunity that Creation has had all along: we can serve as an instrument of glorification. Our lives can be an example of who God is and what He has done for us. How can we best do that?

Take some time to pray for each other that we would be the best possible examples of the glory of God to the world around us.