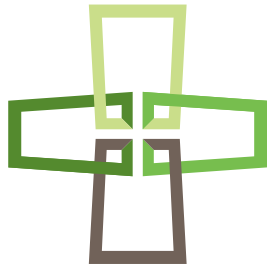


Prayer Guide

Colossians 1:15-23



BRIARCLIFF CHURCH

This week we will focus on the supremacy of Jesus Christ. This is the heart of Christianity. Jesus was a man who really walked on this earth, but he was also fully God. He is more than we can ever fully comprehend but we can know enough to change our lives and strengthen our faith.

This passage of scripture is divided into two parts. Verses 15-17 present Christ as the source and sustainer of creation. Verses 18-20 present him as the source of new creation or redemption who reconciles us to God the Father.

Christ is also the “firstborn.” This does not mean “one born first”, but rather a place of honor and leadership. He stands in the number one place of the universe and redemption.

He was the first to rise to unending life. This sets him apart from any religious leader in the history of mankind. He deserves our worship and devotion. He is our only hope for eternal life. He is the heart of the gospel and we have the privilege to proclaim him to a broken world.

Read and reflect (meditate) on the truth of verses 15-23. Allow the truth about Jesus expand your thinking and fill your heart with his true character. Worship him in prayer and express how you feel about who he really is—supreme above all things.

DAY ONE

Colossians 1:15 (ESV) He (Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

- Meditate for a moment on the one who is *supreme over all creation* and worship him.
- Memorize this verse by reciting it aloud each day for the rest of this week.
- What is your next step in knowing Jesus better?
- Ask God to guide you in knowing him better and worshipping him more fully.

DAY TWO

Colossians 1:16 (ESV) For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

- List the things around you that God created through Jesus, including yourself and others.
- Ask God to give you a greater appreciation for his wondrous creation and worship him. Keep in mind your responsibility as a steward of his creation.
- You were *created through him and for him*. What does it mean to you that he created you for him?
- Ask God to help you see more clearly his purpose for your life and any part of your life that is not being lived *for him*.

DAY THREE

Colossians 1:17 (ESV) And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

- God is *before all things* and has stamped eternity on your heart. What are your thoughts when you think about “he is before all things?”
- Ask God to burden your heart for those in your circle of influence that have not come to know God’s salvation and eternal life.
- Is there anything falling apart in your life? List your worries.
- Ask God to *hold together* your life in perfect peace in a world that knows no peace.

DAY FOUR

Colossians 1:18 (ESV) And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

- He is only *head of the body* as he is the head of your life. Make an honest list of where he is head of your life and where his is not.
- Ask God to check your list and guide you to consistently make him *first in everything* in your life.
- List anything that is worrying you right now.
- Ask God to help you relax in the power of his resurrection and his preeminence over everything.

DAY FIVE

Colossians 1:19-20 (ESV) For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

- Think for a moment about the fact that in Jesus *all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell*. What steps can you take to know him better?
- Ask God to guide you in taking those next steps to know him better.
- Spending a moment giving thanks to Jesus for reconciling you to God.
- Ask God to guide you to live as an example of a redeemed life and lead you to consistently seek his forgiveness each time you go astray.