



## Day 2

2. What does it mean that Jesus is “**the firstborn of all creation**”? (Col. 1:15) The definition of *prototokos* can mean first in order of birth or having the special status associated with a first-born child, but more often refers to prominence in position or rank. According to Colossians 1:16, in what is Christ the firstborn?

3. Look at the following verses. How do they help you understand the idea of “firstborn?”

a. Exodus 4:21-23 and/or Jeremiah 31:9

b. Psalm 89:23-29 and Revelation 1:5

Note: Psalm 89 is a Messianic psalm that speaks of David and him who is a type of David which is the Christ. So while it speaks of David in its near fulfillment, it, at the same time, fulfills the prophecy of Jesus Christ, the one who would sit on David's throne for eternity.

c. Hebrews 1:2

d. Psalm 89:6-7 and Hebrews 1:6

4. According to the verses above, what does *prototokos* mean?

## Day 3

**“For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.”** Colossians 1:16

5. What was Christ’s role in creation according to Colossians 1:15-16, and what specifically did He create?
  
6. Read Genesis 1 and John 1:1-4 and answer the following questions:
  - a. Who was present at creation?
  
  - b. What was Christ’s role in creation?
  
7. Take time to exalt this attribute of Christ by listing ten or more amazing feats of Christ’s creative power as listed in Job 38 and 39.

**“He is before all things”** Colossians 1:17a

To say that Christ is before all things means He has no origin. Read about this idea in this excerpt by A.W. Tozer:

“God has no origin”, said Novatian, and it is precisely this concept of no-origin which distinguishes That-which-is-God from whatever is not God. Origin is a word that can only apply to things created. When we think of anything that has origin we are not thinking of God. God is self-existent, while all created things necessarily originated somewhere at some time.

Aside from God, nothing self-caused. By our effort to discover the origin of things we confess our belief that everything was made by Someone who was made of none. By familiar experience we are taught that everything ‘came from’ something else. Whatever exists must have had a cause that antedates it and was at least equal to it, since the lesser cannot produce the greater. (A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, page 35)

8. From this passage, what belief do we confess about the origin of Jesus Christ?
  
9. What familiar term do God and Jesus use to refer to themselves concerning this idea of “no-origin” in Exodus 3:14 and John 8:24?

## Day 4

### **“and in Him all things hold together”** Colossians 1:17b

10. What do the following verses have to say about God holding all things together?

- a. Job 34:14-15
- b. Isaiah 40:26
- c. Hebrews 1:3

“Man is a created being, a derived and contingent self, who of himself possesses nothing but is dependent each moment of his existence upon the One who created him after His own likeness...Man for all his genius is but an echo of the original Voice, a reflection of the uncreated Light. As a sunbeam perishes when cut off from the sun, so man apart from God would pass back into the void of nothingness from which he first leaped at the creative call” (A. W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*, page 35)

### **“He is also head of the body, the church”** Colossians 1:18a

11. It is important to ask yourself, “Why is Christ called the head?” “What function does a head perform on the body itself?”

- a. Draw a diagram of 1 Corinthians 11:3 and Ephesians 5:25 to visually see the order in which God has ordained the authority structure.
  
- b. What visual imagery is given in Ephesians 4:14-16? How does the head work according to these verses? You may draw or write this one.

### **“and He is the beginning”** Colossians 1:18b

12. Is this referring to time or rank? Look up the following verses to find out.

- a. Isaiah 44:6
- b. Revelation 1:8
- c. Revelation 22:13

### **“the firstborn from the dead”** Colossians 1:18b

13. Is this referring to first in time or rank? Were there any others who were raised up from the dead before Jesus? If so, who were they? ( See 1 Kings 17:17-24; 2 Kings 4:32-34; 2 Kings 13:21; Luke 7:13-15; John 11:43-44; Matthew 10:7-8; Matthew 27:52-53).

14. How is the resurrection of Jesus Christ different than any other? (Colossians 3:1; Luke 22:69; Mark 16:19)

## Day 5

**“so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything”** Colossians 1:18b

15. This phrase, “first place,” comes from the word *proteuo* (GK 4409) meaning “pre-eminent.” It has the same root as *prototokos* in question 2 when referring to pre-eminent in Creation.. List some words that are synonymous with pre-eminent:

16. Do you see a common thread or theme that all these attributes have in common?



### GROWING IN RESPECT TO SALVATION

17. It is God’s intention for Christ to be pre-eminent in everything (His creation, the angels, the demons, and His Bride). It is His expressed will that we be his first love (Revelation 2:4). So, does Christ have first place in your life? Evaluate yourself based on the list from Colossians 3.

- Am I putting Christ first in seeking Him and thinking about things of God? (Colossians 3:1-4)
- Am I putting Christ first by seeking to kill my sin which amounts to idolatry? (Colossians 3:5-7)
- Am I putting Christ first in my speech, instead of speech full of anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusiveness? (Colossians 3:8-11)
- Am I putting Christ first by speaking truth to others? (Colossians 3:9)
- Am I putting Christ first by treating others with a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience? (Colossians 3:12)
- Am I putting Christ first by bearing with others and forgiving them as Christ forgave me? (Colossians 3:13)
- Am I putting Christ first in letting the peace of Christ rule in me? (Colossians 3:15)
- Am I putting Christ first by being continuously thankful? (Colossians 3:15)
- Am I putting Christ first by letting God's Word dwell in me richly? (Colossians 3:16)
- Am I putting Christ first by teaching and admonishing others? (Colossians 3:16)
- Am I putting Christ first in **everything** I do and say? (Colossians 3:17)



### GROWING IN RESPECT TO SALVATION

18. Take time to confess any areas where Christ is not first. Beg God to do this work in you and for the faith to walk in Him, step by step in obedience.

**“For it was the Father’s good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him”** Colossians 1:19

19. According to these verses, what aspects of God's character dwell fully in Christ?

John 8:58

John 10:30-33

Hebrews 1:8



### GROWING IN RESPECT TO SALVATION

20. Go back through each attribute of Christ that you studied in this lesson, and take time to give glory to Him. Then, turn back to this page and write down as many as you can without looking. Make this list a regular part of your adoration to Christ.

21. Take time to sing this song to Him. Mark any attributes listed in this song which are also listed in Colossians 1.

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied -  
For every sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious day, Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory, Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine -Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand:  
Till He returns or calls me home, Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.