Recenter Day Prayer Guide

THE PREEMINENCE OF CHRIST | COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

Recenter Day is a time for our church to pray and fast together, intentionally refocusing our hearts and minds on Christ as we remember his preeminence and respond in adoration, prayer, and worship. Learn more at watermark.org/pray.

Colossians 1:15-20 gives us a clear picture of who Jesus is: he is God. As the second person of the Trinity, Jesus reveals God's character, is the creator and sustainer of all things, leads his Church, and reconciles sinners to himself through his death on their behalf. Paul brings these truths together with one purpose: "that in everything he might be preeminent" (Colossians 1:18). Jesus is worthy of first place in every part of our lives.

READ COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

Begin by reading Colossians 1:15-20 in full. Read this passage slowly and multiple times, paying attention to what the passage tells you about Jesus. Then use the sections below to structure your prayer time.

IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD

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

Jesus does not simply tell us about God or have some of his attributes. Jesus is God's clearest image and self-revelation, making the invisible visible through incarnation. When we look to Jesus, we see who God is. The word "firstborn" does not mean he was created; rather, it points to his supremacy and authority over creation.

Consider the inexplicable gift of being created in God's image. Christ is God's clearest image, but we too are God's image. As we're conformed to Christ, we reflect God more and more accurately. It's worth turning to worship and reflection immediately. Where has God shaped you to look like Jesus? Where are you struggling to let your image reflect his?

CREATOR OF ALL THINGS

"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." (Colossians 1:16)

Everything exists because of Jesus and ultimately for Jesus. His authority and sovereignty extend over all creation, including lesser spiritual entities. Nothing is outside his rule or greater than him. That means everything about you—your identity, purpose, plans, work, relationships, gifts, time, and resources—is also subject to his authority and intended for his glory.

Thank Jesus for specific gifts he has entrusted to you. Think about what has been occupying most of your attention. Where are you living as though something belongs to you rather than to him? Ask him to help you steward what he has given you for his glory.

BEFORE ALL THINGS

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

Jesus is not competing for a place among the many things that matter to you: he matters most. Jesus is the only one who made all things, he is the only one who can keep things going, and he is the one who gives everything its meaning.

Bring your priorities, responsibilities, uncertainties, and worries before him. Is there anything in your life you are struggling to understand? Confess where self-reliance has replaced dependence on him. Ask him to help you make sense of the things that are confusing to you.

HEAD OF THE CHURCH

“And he is the head of the body, the church.” (Colossians 1:18)

As followers of Jesus, we belong to the Church, and the Church belongs to Jesus. He is its head, and we are his people. This means our plans, preferences, and ministries must remain submitted to him.

Pray for Watermark’s elders, staff, ministry leaders, and members. Ask that we would abide in Jesus, make disciples together, and remain faithful to his Word and mission. Review the 10 markers and thank God for the ways he is growing you as a faithful member of the local church. Ask God to help you in areas where you feel like you are struggling in. Pray for unity, humility, and dependence on the Holy Spirit throughout our church.

FIRST IN EVERYTHING

“He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.” (Colossians 1:18)

Jesus has supremacy not only over creation but also over the new creation through his resurrection. He has already conquered death and made a way for new life. His preeminence means he holds first place in everything, now and forever.

Praise God for new life in Christ and for the hope of resurrection when he returns. Ask God to reveal what regularly receives your attention or affection. What would change in your decisions, relationships, schedule, or priorities if Jesus was first place?

RECONCILED THROUGH CHRIST

“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.” (Colossians 1:19-20)

Our sin separates us from God, and that consequence is death. But because Jesus is fully God and fully man, his death on the cross made our reconciliation with God possible. Apart from Jesus, we are dead in our sin, and there is nothing we can do to make ourselves acceptable to God through effort or discipline. Our hope rests in what Jesus has accomplished.

Through Jesus's death and resurrection, God made a way to restore what sin had broken. This extends beyond our individual relationships with God to all of creation. Through Christ, God will ultimately make all things new.

Confess sin and thank Jesus for giving us peace with God through his sacrifice for us. Ask where you need to pursue forgiveness or reconciliation with another person. Pray by name for people who do not yet know Jesus, including friends, family, and neighbors. Think about your Top 10 List. Ask God to give you opportunities to pray for, befriend, invite, and share the gospel with others.

RECENTER ON CHRIST

Read Colossians 1:15-20 once more. As you reflect on who Jesus is, consider what God has brought to mind during your time in prayer. What truths about Jesus do you want to remember in the future?

As you move forward from Recenter Day, our prayer is that this passage continues to shape how you see your circumstances, approach responsibilities, and spend your time so that your heart and mind would be more focused on Christ. We pray this would begin a regular practice of returning to who Jesus is and remembering his preeminence.

If you are fasting, let your hunger or desire turn your attention back to that truth. Ask God what it would look like to live in light of Jesus’s preeminence today and in the weeks ahead.