

Colossians 1:15-29

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. ¹⁹For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

²¹And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²²he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

²⁴Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, ²⁵of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸**Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.** ²⁹For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

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VISION 2015 'Him we proclaim' Colossians 1:28

- Sum up in one word...

Proclaim Christ to the world

- be 'on-message' ¹

Proclaim Christ to one another

- be centred ON Christ ²

- be rooted IN Christ ³

- be devoted TO Christ ⁴

¹ Philippians 1:18; Acts 17:7,18; 1 Corinthians 1:23

² Colossians 1:15-20; Philippians 1:21; Colossians 3:1-17

³ Colossians 2:3,9;

⁴ 1 Corinthians 7:35; 16:22; 2 Corinthians 11:3