**Lessons from a Lockdown**

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**Day 19**

**Colossians 1:15-20**

The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

***Questions for Personal Reflection:***

1. If I were to list down all the ways Jesus is described here, which is the most amazing to me? Why?
2. What is my mental picture of Jesus? How does it compare with how Paul describes him?
3. What is the relevance to me of Jesus holding things together? What do I need Jesus to hold together right now?
4. If I were to write my own descriptions of Jesus, what would they be?
5. What do I need to do or change to reflect the supremacy of Jesus in my life?

***Insight:***

Paul describes Jesus in many awe-inspiring ways. We often don’t think of Jesus in these ways. Our most common image of Jesus is him crucified on the cross or him teaching or healing people. But how often do we imagine Jesus as God? Paul in this part of the letter helps us understand deeper who Jesus is.

Jesus is the *image of the invisible God.* How can something invisible have an image? How can you take a photo of air? But this is exactly what Jesus does for us. Our human eyes are too feeble to see God, but by seeing Jesus we can see God. Jesus is God in the form our human eyes can process and in a way our brains can comprehend. Jesus is God in human form. In this way we can understand God and have a relationship with God. This means that God wants us to see him, understand him and have a relationship with him. Do we desire a relationship with God the way he desires to have a relationship with us?

Jesus is the *firstborn over all creation.* This means that Jesus has authority over all of creation. Everything created is subject to his will. The entire universe is under his authority. So we should not be afraid of any authority on earth because our Lord and Master is the ultimate authority. His commands hold greater weight than all other laws and rules because his authority is greater than all. So we need to make sure that Jesus is the ultimate authority in our lives. We should strive to obey him more than anyone else.

Being *firstborn over all creation* does not mean Jesus was also a created being. Being “firstborn” does not mean first in terms of order because this would contradict other verses. First, Paul said that Jesus is *firstborn from among the dead.* But we know Jesus is not the first person to rise from the dead (1 Ki 17:17-24; Jn 11:38-44). Second Paul also said: *For in him all things were created.* Jesus is the Creator therefor he cannot be a created being.

In fact, *all things have been created through him and for him.* Not only is Jesus the Creator, he is also the reason why things were created. We were created for Jesus. So we need to ask ourselves: Am I living as someone created for Jesus?

Jess is *before all things.* This means that before the universe was created, Jesus already existed. This again reiterates the truth that Jesus is God.

In Jesus *all things hold together*. Jesus holds the universe together. Without Jesus, things will fall apart, whether they be galaxies or atoms. If Jesus can hold the universe together, what makes us doubt that he can keep our lives together? This pandemic has brought chaos into our lives. But our lives don’t have to fall apart if we have Jesus.

Jesus is *the head of the body, the church*. Our church must follow Jesus no matter what. Our goals must be his goals. We do what we do because Jesus wants us to not because it is convenient or easy. Where Jesus goes, the church follows.

All the *fullness* of God *dwells* in Jesus. This means that Jesus though human was also *fully* God. He is not a lesser God or a demi-god like in the Greek mythologies. That the fullness of God can “fit” in a human body is difficult to comprehend. But just because we don’t know how something can be true, does not mean it can’t be true. The Bible says that Jesus was human and is God at the same time. So it must be true.

Perhaps the most important description of Jesus for us is the fact that through Jesus, God reconciled to himself all things. Because Jesus died on the cross, we can be reconciled to God. He made peace by his blood.

In various ways, Paul repeatedly reiterated the supremacy of Jesus over ALL. Notice how many times the word “all” is used. This makes the final description of Jesus even more striking. Despite his supremacy, he died on the cross for us. The person who died on the cross for us was no ordinary man or teacher or healer or prophet. It was God himself, the creator and sustainer of the universe who sacrificed himself for us. If this does not amaze us nothing will.

Despite the lockdown, let our lives reflect the supremacy of Christ.