



Colossians



SHEPHERDCHURCH

Week 2: The Supremacy of Christ

Welcome

What image of yourself do you most want others to believe is true—especially online or in public? Why do you think that is?

Worship

As a Life Group, sing or listen to a worship song that focuses on Jesus as our greatest blessing. (examples of songs might include playing songs on YouTube, Spotify, Google Play, Apple Music, etc. like *Jesus Messiah* by Chris Tomlin or *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*). Then, as a Life Group, briefly reflect on the lyrics and pray.

Week 2: The Supremacy of Christ

Word

If you haven't already, watch the video lesson and read **Colossians 1:15-23**.

1. Read **Colossians 1:15 and Hebrews 1:3**. How are the words *image*, *radiance*, and *exact representation* related but different? What do the words teach about Jesus' relationship with the Father?

2. How are **Colossians 1:16 and Ephesians 6:12** similar? How do these verses show Jesus to be supreme in the spiritual world?

Week 2: The Supremacy of Christ

3. **Colossians 1:17** says, "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." What images come to mind when you read verse 17? What does it mean for Jesus to hold all things together? How does verse 17 show Jesus to be supreme in the universe?

4. Read **Exodus 13:2; Deuteronomy 21:17; Nehemiah 10:36; Romans 8:29; and Hebrews 12:22-24**. What privileges, responsibilities, and symbolic meanings are attached to the firstborn in these passages? How do these layers of meaning help us understand Jesus as divinely supreme—not as the first created being, but as the preeminent Son who secures our eternal inheritance and leads the family of God?

Week 2: The Supremacy of Christ

5. How does **Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15-16** reinforce or expand Paul's teaching in **Colossians 1:18-20** about the church? What similarities and distinct emphases do you notice in the verses?

6. Read **Colossians 1:21-22**. What does verse 21 say about our condition before Christ? How do each of the following words in verse 22 describe a Christian's standing in Jesus— "holy," "without blemish," and "free from accusation"?

Week 2: The Supremacy of Christ

7. **Colossians 1:23** issues a challenge: "if you continue in your faith..." How does this challenge align with the concept of grace? What does it look like for you to "continue in your faith" day-to-day?

Witness

Brainstorm ways your Life Group can inspire others to follow Jesus. Some ideas might include:

- As a Life Group, write cards or prayers of encouragement to new believers or people who were recently baptized.
- As a Life Group, host a BBQ for the neighborhood where your Life Group meets each week.
- As a Life Group, create a social media post that shares why following Jesus is the best decision that anyone could make.
- As a Life Group, minister to the local community by partnering with **Shepherd GO**.

Discuss the possibilities and try to set a date before your Life Group concludes.

Week 2: The Supremacy of Christ

Personal Reflection & Deeper Study for this Week

- Memorize **Colossians 1:17** and/or **Colossians 1:19-20**.
- Reflect and write on the following two prompts:
 - Where in my life does it feel like things are falling apart? How does knowing Jesus "holds all things together" speak into that?
 - In what ways do I struggle with presenting a curated image of myself? What would it mean to live more authentically grounded in Christ?
- Compare **John 1:1-18** and **Hebrews 1:1-4** with **Colossians 1:15-23**...
 - How is Jesus described in each passage?
 - What does each say about Jesus' divinity, creation, and relationship to the Father?
 - What stands out about Jesus' role in sustaining the world and saving it?
- Read **Colossians 1:18; Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; Revelation 1:5**...
 - Look at the verses that surround each passage and write down the different contexts that the phrase "firstborn from among the dead."
 - How does the phrase "firstborn from among the dead" tie into the larger biblical theme of resurrection?
 - Why is Jesus' resurrection central to understanding His supremacy and the new creation?