<u>Colossians – The Lordship of Christ study 2:-</u> Chapter 1, Verses 15 – 23:-
Here Paul emphasises the supreme Lordship of the Lord Jesus Christ over *"all things"*. Notice how these words occur over and over again in verses 15 – 20.

Verse 15:-
This verse reflects on the 'Adam / Christ typology' – see Genesis chapter 1, verse 27, Psalm 8 and Hebrews chapter 2, verses 5 – 18, in which Christ is viewed as the first true man who fulfills God's design in creation. Remember that it is because mankind *"bears the image of his creator that is possible for Son of Man to become incarnate as man and in His humanity to display the glory of the invisibleast God."* (F. F. Bruce in '*The Epistles to the Ephesians and Colossians'*).

Verses 16 – 17:-
Note that these verses have the same theme as Hebrews chapter 1, verses 2 – 3. *"All things were created through him and for him"* (Verse 17) and it is worth reading again (slowly and thoughtfully) John's Gospel chapter 1 verses 1 – 5. The Lord Christ is the One through whom all the universes seen through modern telescopes were created and also in him *"all things hold together"*.Remember that the 'law of gravity', which is suggested as being the means of the development of the universe as we know it, is part of the created order and under the authority of the Lord.

Verse 18 - 19:-
Remember always that our Lord Jesus Christ is the head of the church! The King, the bishops, yes and we ourselves are members of that church, but dependent on Him, and must be obedient to Him! In Him and through Him the Lord God was *"reconciling all things to himself"*. Through His death on the cross and the shedding of His blood we have peace with God.

Verse 21 – 23:-
Paul emphasises that the Colossians are now members of the church *"reconciled in his body of flesh by his death"*. They need to remain steadfast *"not shifting from the gospel which you heard"*. It is easy to adapt to the culture of the time and so compromise the faith and hope of salvation.

Note that this solemn warning is found in most of the Epistles written to the early churches. Maybe as a summary it is worth re-reading the 'Warnings to the churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3.

1. Who is He born in the stall,
at whose feet the shepherds fall?
Who is He in deep distress,
fasting in the wilderness?
Refrain:
'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story!
'Tis the Lord! the King of glory!
At His feet we humbly fall.
Crown Him! Crown Him, Lord of all!

2. Who is He the people bless
for His words of gentleness?
Who is He to whom they bring
all the sick and sorrowing?

Refrain:

3. Who is He that stands and weeps
at the grave where Laz'rus sleeps?
Who is He the gath'ring throng
greet with loud triumphant song?
Refrain:

4. Lo! at midnight, who is He
prays in dark Gethsemane?
Who is He on yonder tree
dies in grief and agony?
Refrain:

5. Who is He that from the grave
comes to heal and help and save?
Who is He that from His throne
rules through all the world alone?
Refrain:

Benjamin R. Hanby 1866

Terry Brighton 29 / 10 / 2026