**Colossians 1:15-23**

**Theme:**

**Purpose then:**

**Call now:**

* Introduction
  + Exploring ‘supremacy’?
  + Introduction to the colossian heresy?
  + Exploring doctrine of Christ?
    - *“The most essential truth of the historic Christian faith”*
    - *“Christianity is Christ and Christ is God”*
  + Introduction to ‘bigness’ of God?
  + General intro to amazing passage?
    - *“one of the most important statements about the person of Christ in the New Testament”*
* Christ’s Supremacy in creation
  + Image of invisible God
    - God is invisible
      * *“His essential nature has never been seen”*
    - God is made visible in his son (perfect representation)
      * 1 John 4:12, John 1:18, Hebrews 1:3, John 14:19
      * Exodus 20:4 – no images: nothing man creates can faithfully represent God
      * Gen 1:27 – man in the image: but does not perfectly, fully represent the image of God
        + Incommunicable attributes
        + Moral Attributes: Jesus did represent
      * I’m “Image of my Father” but no one would confuse me for my father. For Jesus this is true
  + Firstborn
    - Not in time (Cain?)
    - But in rank
    - In magnitude?
    - Exodus 4:22 – Israel is firstborn
  + Supreme…
    - Over all creation
    - In Him all things created
      * Whether…
    - Created through Him
      * Cannot himself be created
    - Created for Him
      * All has apurpose, goal of creation
      * His glory, his pleasure
    - Before all things
    - Holds all things together
      * Cosmos and not a chaos
      * Still at work
      * True for universe. True for you.
* Christ’s Supremacy in redemption
  + Church not covered in ‘all things’? – Particular point
  + Picture of a body for the church
    - Not without a head (dead)
    - Not multiple heads (monster!)
  + Firstborn
    - Not in time (Lazarus, others)
    - In Rank
    - In magnitude
* Why? God was *pleased*
  + All his fullness
  + Reconcile all
  + At the cross
    - Historical event
* Believer’s supremacy over sin
  + Turn from Christ’s glory. Like a slap in the face
    - Explore how enemies in mind & behaviour
    - Writing to believers, non-believers this is true
  + But don’t hear condemnation without absolution
    - For a future hope
  + If we press on
    - (if not because)