

Good Answers to Life's Questions (GATLQ),

- Better Questions / better answers
- Life is not always easy!
- Dealing with problems: relationships, family, work, school, finances, health =
- **STRESS!!**

▶ *Good Answers to Life's Questions*
Series – Memory Verses: Col 2.6-7

- ⁶ Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,⁷ rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.




Lesson 2: *Who is Number 1?*

Text: Colossians 1.15-29


1. The *Real Jesus is #1!*
2. What Jesus *did/does*
3. Christ in you = *hope*

Colossians 1.15-29, ESV

- ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For 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.

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

- ²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if 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.

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- ²⁴ Now 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, ²⁵ of 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, ²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints.

- ²⁷ To 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. ²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

1. The Real Jesus is #1!

- all things were created through him and *for* him
- in him all things hold together.
- the head of the body, the church.
- the firstborn from the dead,
- that in everything he might be preeminent.

Preeminence?

- The word **preeminence** is the Greek word **proteuo**, which means “to be first in rank or influence.” It comes from the word **protos**, meaning “**foremost in time, order, or importance.**” We see this word in the English word **prototype**—“the first type or model of something.” It is therefore the idea of being first, and in that sense, ***holding the number one position in the order of things.***
 - <https://www.awordfromtheword.org/preeminence>

- ***“Wrong thinking leads to sin”***
 - LABC, Philippians, Colossians, & Philemon, p.169
- Wrong thinking about ***myself***
- Wrong thinking about ***Jesus***

2. What Jesus did/does

- *and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*
- Answers the 'what and how' questions: **how are we saved?**
- *making peace by the blood of his cross.*

- 21 And you, who once were alienated and *hostile in mind*, doing evil deeds,
- 22 he has now reconciled in his body of flesh *by his death*,
- in order to present you *holy and blameless* and above reproach before him,²³
- if indeed you *continue in the faith*, stable and steadfast

▸ 3. Christ in you = hope

- among the Gentiles - who??
- 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

▸ Is Jesus Number 1?

- Who – or what - is numero uno in your life?
- ⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure.

Who can understand it? - Jeremiah 17:9 (NIV)

- *We need help here!! Who can help us?*
- Christ in you, the hope of glory.
- ²⁸ Him we proclaim