

JESUS THE RESSURECTION AND THE LIFE

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies" John 11:25

A study on Colossians 1:15-18

"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether they are kings, lords, rulers, or powers. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself existed before anything else did, and he holds all things together. He is also the head of the body, which is the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he himself might have first place in everything."

This is confirmed in John 1:3 speaking about Jesus: "Through him all things were made, and apart from him nothing was made that has been made."

There are two things in that passage of scripture which would have been understood by the early church but are a stumbling block to some today. The first is the word 'image' which conjures up thoughts of an idol. This has caused heresy among the cults. The word 'image' could also mean that Jesus is the physical image of the invisible God but as God is spirit this cannot be. Instead scripture tells us we like Jesus shall be in the image of God at the resurrection when we will be transformed into the perfect nature of God becoming a "new man." :

"put on **the new man**, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him" Col 3:9b

"And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." 1Co 15:49

"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2Co 3:18

Another stumbling block that has caused heresy among the cults is the word "firstborn." This has made people mistakenly think that Jesus is a created being which cannot be because all things were created by him and through Him which means that Jesus is eternal. The vital importance of Christ's death and resurrection is that Jesus is the firstborn from the dead and the pre-eminent head of the church on earth.

Rev 1:5 "from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the **firstborn from the dead**, and the prince of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us, and has washed us from our sins in his blood"

1Co 15:20 "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept." Christ rose to die no more and sits exulted at the right hand of God. The head of the body, the church: which had it's beginning in the resurrection firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence."

4416 /prōtōtokos ("firstly") specifically refers to Christ as the first to experience glorification, i.e. at His resurrection (see Heb 12:23; Rev 1:5). For this (and countless other reasons) Jesus is "preeminent" (4416 /prōtōtokos) – the unequivocal Sovereign over all creation (Col 1:16).

This brings us back to Jesus Christ, the Alpha and the Omega who speaks to believers through the Apostle John concerning things past, the things which are and the things which shall be hereafter in Rev 1:17 "When I saw him, I fell down at his feet like a dead man. But he placed his right hand on me and said, "Stop being afraid! I am the first and the last, the living one. I was dead, but look-I am alive forever and ever! I have the keys of Death and Hades."

He who believes in Him shall live