



A new creation focus through Colossians ...

## More about the Awesome Christ

"The god of this world," asseverated Paul, talking about Satan, "has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:4). The goal of this enemy is to reduce the name of Jesus Christ, if at all possible, to the level of an epithet, and to prevent people from having their spiritual eyes open and being able to see Jesus as He really is. Christ's spiritual face, shining more brightly than the sun, is presented to those who will be obedient to the scripture as the very face of the Almighty God.

This face — "the glory of God in the face of Christ" —revealed to the inner man of those who have been properly immersed into Christ in accordance with the scripture, is the complete revelation of the great Jehovah, and is the "image of God."

- ▼ **The Sustainer** — The earth (about 8000 miles in diameter), the sun (about 880,000 miles in diameter), and all other aspects of the physical universe (unknown and unfathomable in distance) were created by Jesus during the first six days of creation week. The angelic beings — good and bad — and the spirit realm were created sometime before the physical creation as evidence by the fact that "morning stars sang together and the sons of God shouted for joy" — references to spirit beings — as they watched the formation of earth (Job 38:6,7). Everything, "visible and invisible," was created by the Lord Christ. "And He is before all things," Paul adds, "and in Him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:17). Not only is Jesus the Creator, He is also the Sustainer. He "upholds all things by the word of His power," the writer of Hebrews superadds (Hebrews 1:3). Every atom and every molecule in the universe is held together by the word of Christ, and when He "speaks once more," He will release that word and the universe will disappear in a flaming roar.
- ▼ **Head of the body** — The church, or the kingdom of Christ, was the contemplated plan of God before the foundation of the world. Jesus, then, "is also the head of the body, the church" (Colossians 1:18). As the physical body is controlled and coordinated by orders emanating from the head, housing the brain, in the same way the body of Christ is controlled and coordinated by the Head. Since He is the Head, His precepts, principles, priorities, and prescripts are to be voluntarily observed and implemented by the members of His body.
- ▼ **First-born from the dead** — Jesus is the only One permanently resurrected from the dead. Those whose resurrections are recorded in scripture, such as Lazarus, were only temporary; each of them died, and must await the general resurrection of the dead at Jesus' second coming. Jesus was raised from the dead on third day following His crucifixion, and appeared in such a way that His body was recognizable by key witnesses. But on the fortieth day from His resurrection, He ascended to the right hand of the Majesty on high, transmogrified into what the apostle Paul called "the body of His glory" (Philippians 3:21). Thus, "He is the beginning, the first-born from the dead."

Of George Washington, sometimes termed "the Cincinnatus of the West" because of his refusal to become king or maintain extended power, it was said, "First in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen." His rock-like steadiness as Commander-in-chief of the Continental Army during the revolutionary war, his firm exuding of confidence during the trying days of the Constitutional Convention, and his superb service of the first President of the newly formed united States of America earned him the nearly republic-wide accolade. How much more, then, should Jesus — Creator, Sustainer, Head of the body, and First-born from the dead — "might come to have first place in everything" for those making the claim to be His followers!

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