

## Colossians 1:15–23 Sample Responses | Alicia Baker and Mary Hannah

### STRUCTURE:

*From Alicia:*

- I. Paul reminds the Colossians of who Jesus is..... (vv. 15–20)
  - a. Jesus is supreme over **all** creation.
    - i. Jesus is God: “the image of the invisible God” (v.15)
    - ii. Jesus is the agent of creation: “by him....” (v.16a)
    - iii. Creation is for Jesus’ glory: “...for him” (v.16b)
    - iv. Jesus sustains creation: “in him...” (v. 17)
  - b. Jesus is supreme over **all** believers (church).
    - i. Jesus was first resurrected so believers can be resurrected. (v.18)
    - ii. Jesus is the fullness of God. (v.19)
    - iii. Jesus’ work on the cross provides the way for reconciliation of creation with God. (v.20)
- II. Paul calls the Colossians to persevere in their faith..... (vv.21–23)
  - a. Paul reminds the Colossians of their alienation from God prior to hearing and believing the gospel. (v. 21)
  - b. Paul reminds the Colossians of who they are now in Christ: “holy and blameless”. (v. 22)
  - c. Paul warns the Colossians against taking their eyes off Jesus, but to fix their gaze on the hope of the gospel. (v.23)

*From Mary:* Paul declares Christ’s supremacy over three realms:

1. Jesus Christ is Lord over creation (vv. 15–17)
  - a. *Summative declarations of supremacy over creation (he is ...):* image of invisible God; firstborn of all creation (v. 15)
  - b. *Elaboration on summative declarations (for ...):* agent, architect, goal of creation; uncreated, and actively holding together all things (vv. 16–17)
2. Jesus Christ is Lord over new creation, the church (vv. 18–20)
  - a. *Summative declarations of supremacy over new creation, the church (he is ...):* head of the body; the beginning; firstborn from the dead (v. 18)
  - b. *Elaboration on summative declarations (for ...):* all God’s fullness dwell in him, through whom God reconciles all things to himself by the blood of Christ’s cross (vv. 19–20)
3. Jesus Christ is Lord over you (vv. 21–23)
  - a. *Summative description of supremacy over you:* Christ’s all-sufficient grace to transform believers from hostile to holy (vv. 21–22)
  - b. *Consequent warning:* continue in the faith, without shifting from the gospel’s hope (v. 23)

### UNIFYING THEME:

*From Alicia:* Christ, the preeminence of all creation and the entire body of believers, shed his blood on the cross and was resurrected to reconcile creation with God; therefore, believers, remembering their past alienation from God and their present righteousness in Christ, must focus their eyes on the Lord Jesus not allowing their gaze to shift from the hope of the gospel.

*From Mary:* Because Jesus Christ is Lord over creation, new creation, and you, you must continue in the faith without shifting from the gospel’s hope.

### AUTHOR’S AIM:

*From Alicia:* Paul aims to **encourage** and **warn** the Colossian believers to continue with steadfastness in their faith, focusing their eyes on the Lord Jesus by reminding them of who the Lord Jesus is – the preeminence of all creation and the church, of what Jesus has done on the cross – provided the way to reconciliation with God, and of who they are now in Christ – changed from alienated and hostile to holy and blameless.

*From Mary:* Paul aims to **declare** the Lord Jesus Christ’ unrivaled supremacy of in service of **demonstrating** the Lord’s all-sufficiency for believers’ full salvation so as to **warn** the Colossians against putting ultimate trust in anyone or anything else and **call** them instead to put their full confidence in Christ alone.