

SUPREMACY FROM THE BEGINNING

COLOSSIANS 1:18

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: “The word ‘firstborn’ is *prototokos*. The Greek word implied two things, *priority* to all creation and *sovereignty* over all creation.” Kenneth S. Wuest, Word Studies in the New Testament, Volume I (Ephesians and Colossians), p. 183. In verse 18 “Paul shows how Christ is the beginning of the new spiritual life in the Church by His resurrection.” Wuest, p.186.

THE BODY: The Church—Jesus is the originator, the source, and the head. “His life lived out through all the members provides the unity of the Body...He energizes and coordinates the diversity within the Body, a diversity of spiritual gifts and ministries.” John MacArthur, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Colossians and Philemon, p. 51. (**Colossians 1:18, fn 1:18, I Corinthians 12:4-7, I Corinthians 12:12-27, fn 12:12, fn 12:13, fn 12:14-24, Ephesians 5:25-27, Colossians 1:28, 29**) *How does the Lord use your small group in your life?*

HIS BODY overcame death. God demonstrated His sovereignty to give resurrected life after death not only to the body of His Son, but to all who place their faith in Him. (**Colossians 1:18, fn 1:18, I Corinthians 15:13-23, fn 15:13-18, fn 15:20, John 11:25, 26, fn 11:25, 26, Hebrews 2:14, 15, fn 2:14, 15[1st]**) *If you are a believer, how does Jesus’ resurrected life affect you?*

HIS PLACE is first place! Without Jesus the Christ there would be no creation, no resurrection, no eternal life, no Holy Spirit, and no church. Therefore, He must be first in all you do. (**Colossians 1:18, Philippians 2:8-13, fn 2:9-11, Ephesians 1:19-23, fn 1:20-22**) *How could you help your family give Jesus first place in all they do?*

According to this preparation how may we pray for you to be strengthened in your personal relationship with Jesus? How else may we pray for you?