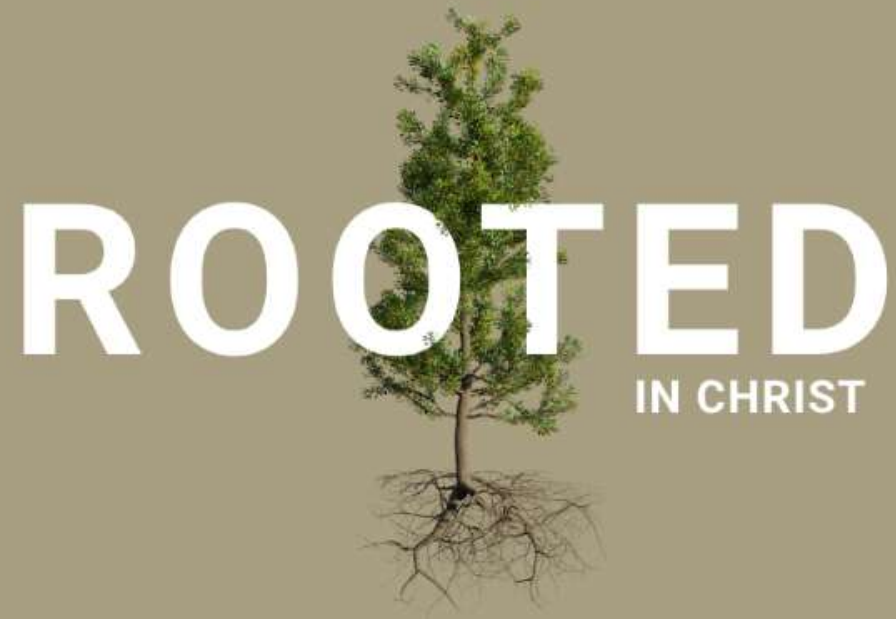




Prominence or Preeminence?

Colossians 1:15-20

The Whole Bible is about Jesus

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- The **Old Testament** points to Jesus
 - The Books of the Law, the Psalms, the Prophets.
- The **New Testament** tells us about Jesus
 - The Gospels, the Book of Acts, the Epistles, the Book of Revelation.

Colossians 1:15-18

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 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. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn ...”

Colossians 1:18-20

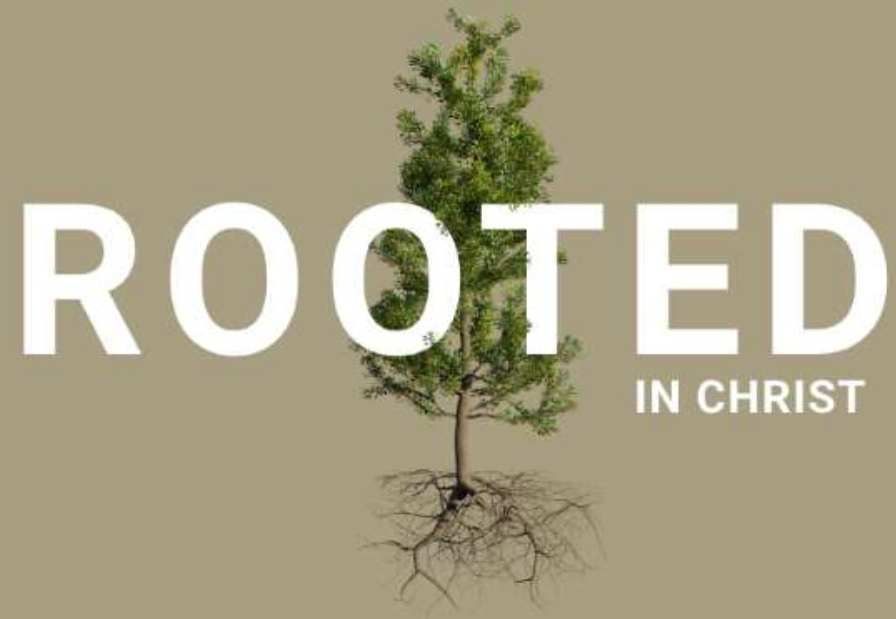
ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” (ESV)

Emphatic use of “He Is!”

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- **HE, he is** the image of the invisible God (15)
- **HE, he is** before all things (17)
- **HE, he is** the head of the body (18)
- **HE, he is** the beginning of all things (18)



He is Lord
of All Creation

Colossians 1:15-17

Descriptors of Christ

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

1. He is the image of the invisible God (18)

- Image (*eikōn*)
 - Corresponding to the original in image, form, and appearance.

John 1:18

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known.” (ESV)

Hebrews 1:3

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“He [Jesus] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.” (ESV)

John 14:9

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.’”
(ESV)

Descriptors of Christ

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

2. He is ... the firstborn of all creation

(15)

- Firstborn (*prōtotokos*)
 - Can speak of priority in time
 - He was before all creation
 - Can speak of priority in rank
 - He stands above all creation

Colossians 1:16-17

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“For by him all things were created ... all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” (ESV)

Descriptors of Christ

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

3. He is the creator of all things (16)

4. He is the sustainer of all things (17)

“All things were created through him ... and in him all things hold together.” (1:16-17, ESV)

John 1:1-3, 14

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

(ESV)

Acts 17:28

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

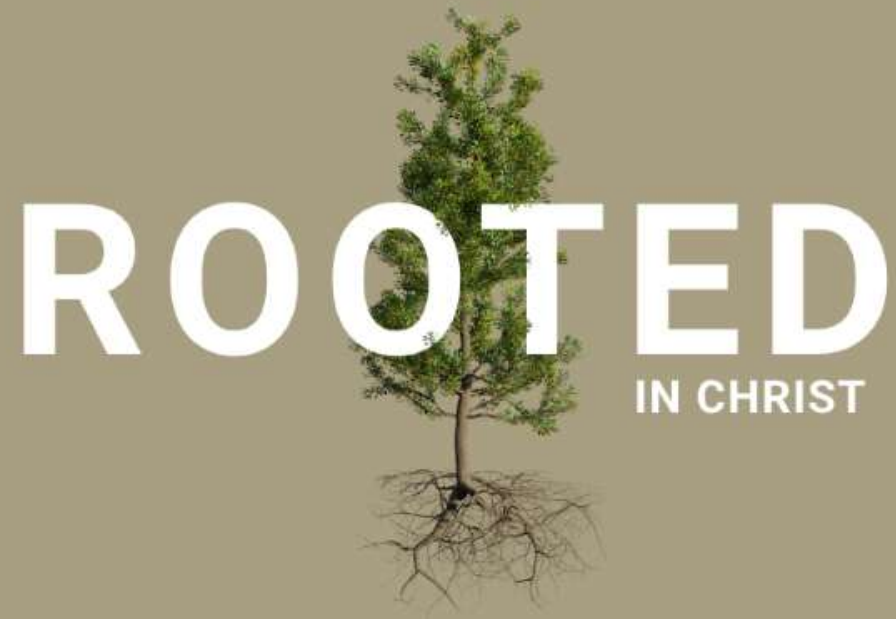
“In him we live and move and have our being.”
(ESV)

"The Atom Speaks," 2013

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

"Consider the dilemma of the nuclear physicist when he finally looks in utter amazement at the pattern ... of the oxygen nucleus ... charges of electricity which like magnetic poles repel each other ... What holds the nucleus together? Why doesn't it fly apart? Do you grasp what this implies? The nuclei have no right to be alive at all ... they should blow up instantly. Yet here they all are ... some inflexible inhibition is holding them relentlessly together."

—Dr. D. Lee Chesnut



He is Lord
of All His
Church

Colossians 1:18-20

Descriptors of Christ

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

5. He is the head of the body, the Church (18)

6. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead (18)

- **Firstborn** (*prōtotokos*)
 - Can speak of priority in time
 - He was before those raised from the dead.
 - Can speak of priority in rank
 - He stands above those raised from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance ... that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day.” (ESV)

Philippians 2:6-9

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above ...”

Philippians 2:9-11

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (ESV)

Descriptors of Christ

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

• **7. He has the fullness of God dwelling in him**
(19)

- **Fullness** (*plērōma*)—completeness, full measure

“Fullness” used 8x in Colossians

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- “For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.” (Col 1:19, ESV)
- “For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.” (Col 2:9, ESV)

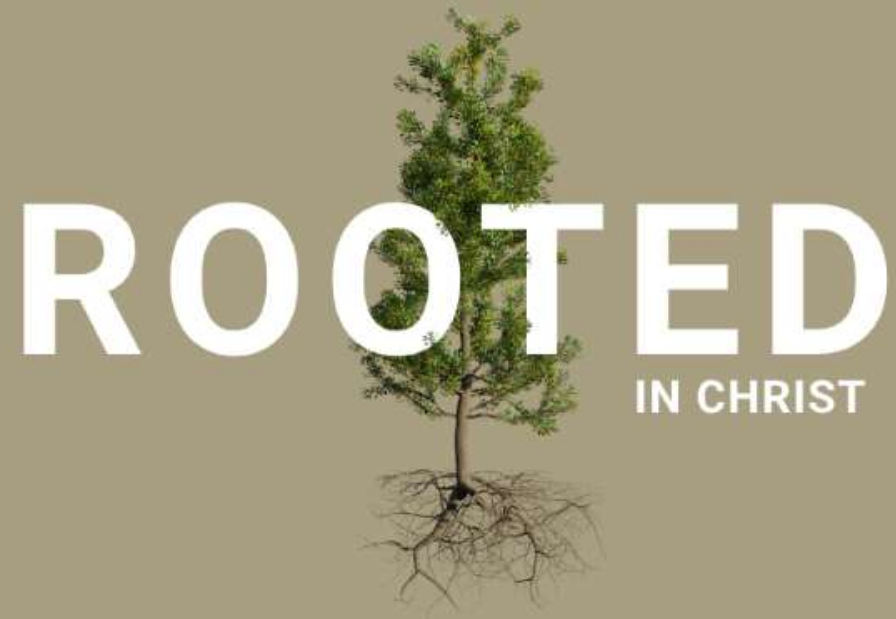
Descriptors of Christ

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

8. He will reconcile all things to himself (20)

“And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.”

(Col 1:20, ESV)



Is He Lord
of You?

“That in everything he
might be preeminent”
(1:18)

Preeminent (*prōteuō*)

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- To have first place. To be first. To reign supreme.
- Used only 1x in Scripture.
 - Jesus is to be first place in everything.

Eight Descriptors of Jesus

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- He is the image of the invisible God
- He is the firstborn over all creation
- He is the creator of all things
- He is the sustainer of all things
- He is the head of the body, the church
- He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead
- He has God's fullness dwelling in Him
- He will reconcile all things to himself

Jesus Above All

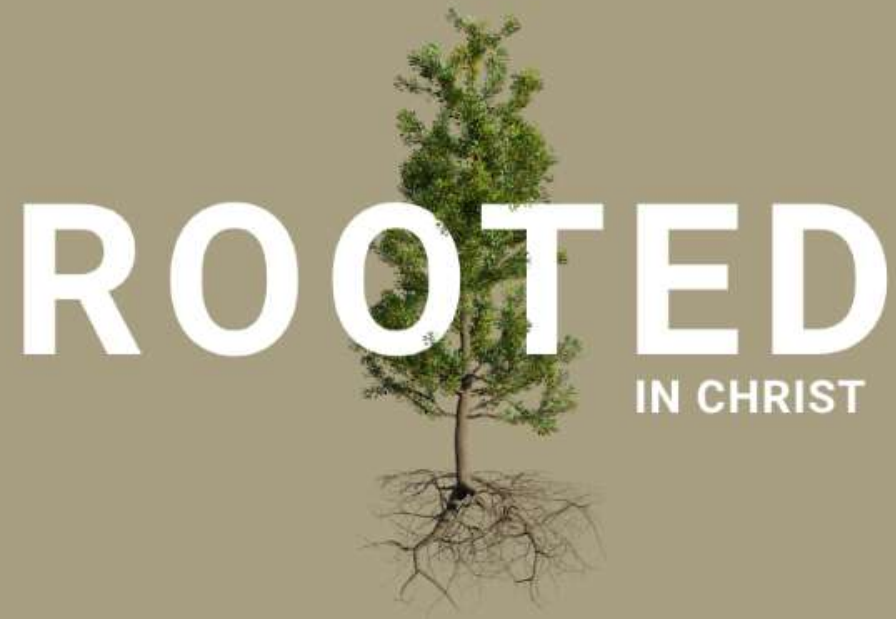
ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- Over every ruler and authority (1:16; 2:10)
- Over every philosophy & human tradition (2:8)
- Over every human regulation & religion (2:20, 23)
- Over everything above (3:1)
- Over every nationality (3:11)
- Over your heart (3:15)
- Over your marriage & family (3:18-21)
- Over your work (3:22-4:1)

Philippians 2:9-11

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

“Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (ESV)



Prominence or
Preeminence?

Jesus is Lord. Is he
Lord of you?

Next steps

ROOTED
IN CHRIST

- I will make Jesus first in my life ahead of all things, not just some things.
- I need to surrender _____ to Jesus this week.
- I will align with Jesus' mission to reach the lost.