

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

Phil O. Waldo
Lead Pastor



1224 Hancock Drive
Boone, Iowa 50036

Phone: 515 432-3329

Website: www.booneopenbible.com

E-mail: office@booneopenbible.com
pastor@booneopenbible.com

SERMON TITLE

Start with Jesus

SERIES

DATE

1/25/2026

KEY SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:15-20

SYNOPSIS

Jesus isn't just important—He's supreme over everything

HIGHLIGHTS





☛ Start with Jesus

Good morning! We're four weeks into 2026 now. We began with A Fresh Start—taking that first step. Then we talked about what happens After The Fresh Start—when it gets messy and hard. Last week we talked about Digging Deeper—developing roots that go down below the surface. And today, we need to talk about where those roots actually go. Because here's the thing: you can be rooted in a lot of different things. You can be rooted in your performance. You can be rooted in other people's opinions, in your success, your family, your reputation. But if you want roots that will actually sustain you, a foundation that won't crumble when life gets hard, there's only one place those roots can go. They've got to go down into Christ.

So today we're asking: Who is Jesus? Really. Not the t-shirt slogan Jesus. Not the "good moral teacher" or "my personal life coach" Jesus. Who is He actually? Because if we get this wrong, everything else falls apart. And if we get this right, everything else falls into place.

☛ **Colossians 1:15-20** gives us one of the most powerful descriptions of Jesus in all of Scripture. Let me read it: **"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 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 and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."**

Here's what you need to know:

☛ **1: If You've Seen Jesus, You've Seen God**

Verse 15: "The Son is the image of the invisible God." We can't see God. He is spirit. He's invisible. Infinite. Beyond our comprehension. And that creates a gap. How do you relate to someone you can't see? How do you know what God is really like?

Throughout history, people have tried to fill in the blanks. We've made up gods in our own image. We've created religions based on what we think God must be like. Angry. Distant. Demanding. We project our own experiences onto God. If your earthly father was harsh, you assume your heavenly Father is harsh. If authority figures in your life were abusive, you assume God is abusive.



But then Jesus shows up. And Paul says, "You want to know what God is like? Look at Jesus." Paul starts with a word that sounds familiar to our modern ears. He says Jesus is the 'image'—the *eikon*—of the invisible God. Now, when we hear 'icon,' we think of a little 2D picture on our 📱 phone screen. But in Paul's world, an *eikon* was something that carried the actual **authority and presence** of the person it represented. If a Roman coin had the *eikon* of Caesar on it, that coin *was* Caesar's authority in your hand.

When you dig deep into your life, you eventually ask the big questions: 'Who is God, really?' and 'Does He actually like me?' Paul says: Stop guessing. Look at the *Eikon*. If you want to know what the 'Invisible God' thinks about a hurting world, look at how Jesus touches a leper. If you want to know how He handles our mess, look at how He handles Peter's betrayal.

📖 **Hebrews 1:3** says it this way: "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and **the exact representation** of his being." You don't have to guess anymore. You don't have to wonder if God is angry at you or disappointed in you or keeping score. Look at Jesus. That's who God is.

It's like trying to describe the flavor of a mango to someone who has never seen one. You can use all the adjectives in the dictionary, but eventually, you just have to say, 'Here, take a bite.' Jesus is the 'bite' of God. He is God in high definition."

John 14:9—Philip says to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father." And Jesus says, "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father." It doesn't get clearer than that. So if you've been carrying around some distorted image of God you need to let that go. Just look at Jesus.

📖 **2: Jesus is Creator and Sustainer**

Verses 16-17: "For in him all things were created..."

All things. Not some things. Not most things. Everything that exists was created by Jesus, through Jesus, and for Jesus. The galaxies? Jesus. The atoms that make up your body? Jesus. Angels, demons, whatever exists in the spiritual realm, Jesus made it. He's not just Lord over the physical 📱 world. **He's Lord over everything.**

Why does this matter? Because the Colossians were being tempted to worship angels. There were false teachers saying, "Sure, Jesus is great, but you also need to honor these spiritual beings. You need special knowledge. You need to appease these powers." And Paul says, "No way! Jesus 📱 created those powers. They're not His equals. They're His creation." It's **not Jesus, plus something else.** It's just Jesus!



We can be just like the Colossians today. We don't worship angels, but we elevate other things to a place of supremacy... Things like a career, a bank account, a social status and more. And Paul would say the same thing: "Don't worship the creation. Jesus created all and is before all. Worship the Creator."

Then, he goes on: "In him all things hold together." He's not some distant deity who wound up the clock and walked away. He's sustaining everything. Scientists tell us there are forces holding atoms together that they can't quite explain. Paul explains it here. Right now, at this very moment, Jesus is actively holding the universe together.

And it's not just the universe. It's your life. You know those seasons when you feel like everything's falling apart? The truth is, it's not, because **Jesus is holding it together**. You might not see it. You might not feel it. But He's there, keeping you from completely unraveling. In Him all things hold together. Your life doesn't fall apart ...because Jesus is holding it. Last week we talked about being 'rooted' in Colossians 2. Roots need something to grab onto. When you dig through the dirt of your daily stress, you will find the holding power of Christ. If He is holding the stars in place, He can hold your mid-week crisis together.

☞ 3: Jesus is Supreme

Verse 18: "And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy."

Jesus isn't just supreme over creation. He's supreme over the church. Not one voice among many. ☞ Not first among equals. The head. **The one who directs and leads**. Sometimes people treat Jesus like a mascot. They like having Him around for the big moments like weddings and funerals. We all want Him to bless our endeavors and make our lives better. But sometimes we don't actually want Him to be in charge. We want Jesus as a consultant, not as commander. And Paul says, "No. He's the head. He doesn't take suggestions. He gives directions."

This means the church isn't about us—it's about Him. It's not about our preferences or our comfort or our traditions. It's about His mission, His kingdom, His glory. "So that in everything he might have the supremacy." Not just some things. Not just the spiritual stuff. Everything. This church. Your work. Your family. Your finances. Your dreams. Your fears. Your Monday morning and your Saturday night. Everything.

☞ So here's the question you have to ask yourself: **Does Jesus have supremacy in everything in your life?** Is He Lord on Sunday but not on Monday? Is He in charge of your morality but not your money? Is He welcome in your prayers but not in your plans? Because Jesus doesn't do



partial lordship. He's not interested in being just a part of your life. He wants to be the center. The head. Jesus is supreme.

☞ 4: Jesus is the Reconciler

Verses 19-20: "For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."

All the fullness of God dwells in Jesus. Not part of God. Not just a representation of God. The fullness. Everything that God is, Jesus is. Fully God. Fully human. In one person. And why? To ☞ reconcile all things. To make peace. **To restore what was broken.** Here's the story of the Bible in one sentence: humanity rebelled against God, and God set out to bring us back. That's what reconciliation means. It's a relationship word. When two parties are at odds and someone brings them back together, that's reconciliation.

And we were at odds with God. **Romans 5:10** says we were God's enemies. Not just lost. Not just confused. Enemies. Our sin created a chasm between us and God that we could never cross on our own. No amount of good behavior, religious activity, or sincere effort could bridge that gap. So God did it Himself through Jesus.

Let that sink in. The way God reconciled the world to Himself wasn't by lowering the standard or pretending sin doesn't matter. It was by sending His Son to die in our place. The cross is where justice and mercy meet. Where our sin is paid for and our relationship with God is restored.

And notice again: all things. Not just people. All things. Paul's talking about cosmic reconciliation here. One day, *everything* that's broken will be made whole. *Everything* that's been corrupted by sin will be redeemed. **Heaven and earth will be united under the lordship of Christ.** ☞ **Creation itself will be set free.**

And it's already begun. When you put your faith in Jesus, *you* experience that reconciliation right now. You're no longer God's enemy. You're His beloved child. The chasm is bridged. The relationship is restored. You have peace with God through Jesus Christ.

☞ And one day, it will come to fullness. When Jesus returns, He'll finish what He started. **Every wrong will be made right.** Every broken thing will be healed. And *all* of creation will finally be what it was always meant to be—under the loving, glorious reign of King Jesus.



So What? Okay, so Jesus is the image of God. Jesus made everything. Jesus holds everything together. Jesus is supreme and reconciles all things. That's a lot of theology. But what does it mean for your life? Why does it matter?

☞ Here's why: **Since Jesus is supreme over everything, He's sufficient for everything.** You don't need Jesus-plus success to be fulfilled. You don't need Jesus-plus the approval of others to have worth. You don't need Jesus-plus a perfect family or a dream job or financial security to ☞ be okay. **Jesus is enough.**

That thing you're chasing—thinking that once you get it, you'll finally be happy? It's not enough. That relationship you're clinging to—thinking that person completes you? They can't. That achievement you're working toward—thinking it will prove your value? It won't. Only Jesus is sufficient. Because only Jesus is supreme.

And if He's holding all things together, including your life, you can stop white-knuckling your way through every day. You can stop trying to control everything. You can stop panicking when ☞ things don't go according to plan. Because **He's got you.** He's holding you.

Here's my challenge for you this week: **Start with Jesus.** When you wake up in the morning, before you check your phone or start your to-do list, acknowledge that Jesus is Lord. Thank Him for holding your life together. **Ask Him to have supremacy over your day**—your thoughts, your words, your decisions.

When you're facing a decision, start with Jesus. Don't just ask, "What do I want?" or "What makes sense?" Ask, "What does Jesus want? What would honor Him?" When you're struggling, start with Jesus. Don't just try to fix it yourself or numb the pain. Bring it to the One who reconciled you to God.

☞ Because **when you start with Jesus**—when He really is the supreme authority in your life—**everything else finds its proper place.** Your identity isn't in your performance—it's in Him. Your security isn't in your circumstances—it's in Him. Your hope isn't in what you can accomplish—it's in what He's already accomplished.

Jesus isn't just important. He's not just a good addition to your life. He's supreme over everything. And when you build your life on that truth, when you root yourself deeply in Him, you'll discover that He really is sufficient for everything you need. So, always... start with Jesus.

Song- Enough