

**Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church**  
**We're glad you're here!**



# Good Christian Men, Rejoice

## Hymn 177





**Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church**  
**We're glad you're here!**





# Advent Observance



An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, and the background is a bright blue sky with some clouds. The text is overlaid on the Bible in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**Video**

***It's About the Cross!***

***The Ball Brothers***

# O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

## Hymn 169





# Praise and Prayer Request

All Prayer request can be e-mail to:

[plbiblechurch@gmail.com](mailto:plbiblechurch@gmail.com)

***We would love to pray for God's will to be done  
your life and for His Name to be glorified in and  
through you, as you seek His Holy Face!***

# Receiving of the Offering



**An offering for the Church can be mailed to:  
Promise Land Bible Church  
PO Box 1437  
Mountain Home, AR 72653**



# ***Famous Quote:***

*“Preach earnestly the love of God in Christ Jesus, and magnify the abounding mercy of the Lord; but always preach it in connection with His justice.”*

**CHARLES SPURGEON**

An open Bible is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with text, but it is out of focus. The background is a bright blue sky with some light clouds. The text is overlaid in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

# **Today's Message**

## **“In Him”**

**Scripture text: Colossians 1:15-23**

**Colossians 1:16-20** 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 from the dead, **that in everything he might be preeminent**. 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**.



## **Christ Is the Creator (Col. 1:15–17)**

The false teachers were very confused about Creation. They taught that matter was evil, including the human body. They also taught that Jesus Christ did not have a real body since this would have put Him in contact with evil matter. The results of these false teachings were tragic, including extreme asceticism on the one hand and unbridled sin on the other. After all, if your body is sinful, you either try to enslave it or you enjoy it.

In this section, Paul explained the fourfold relationship of Jesus Christ to Creation.

# 1.) He [Jesus Christ] existed before Creation (v. 15).

The term firstborn does not refer to time, **but to place or status**. Jesus Christ was not the first being created, since **He Himself is the Creator of all things**. Firstborn simply means “**of first importance, of first rank.**”

Solomon was certainly not born first of all of David's sons, yet he was named the firstborn (Ps. 89:27).

**Psalm 89:27** And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.

Firstborn of all Creation means “**prior to all Creation.**” Jesus Christ is not a created being; **He is eternal God.** Paul used the word image to make this fact clear. It means “**an exact representation and revelation.**”

**Hebrews 1:3-4** He 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**. After making purification for sins, **he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high**, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.



The writer to the Hebrews affirms that Jesus Christ is **“the express image of His Person”** (Heb. 1:3).

Jesus was able to say, **“Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”** (John 14:9). In His essence, God is invisible; but **Jesus Christ has revealed Him to us** (John 1:18).

Nature reveals the existence, power, and wisdom of God; but **nature cannot reveal the very essence of God to us.**

**It is only in Jesus Christ that the invisible God is revealed perfectly.** Since no mere creature can perfectly reveal God, **Jesus Christ must be God.**

**2.) He created all things (v. 16a).**

**Since Christ created all things, He Himself is uncreated.** The word for that introduces this verse could be translated “because.” **Jesus Christ is the Firstborn of all because He created all things.**

It is no wonder that the winds and waves obeyed Him, and diseases and death fled from Him, for **He is Master over all.** “All things were made by Him” (John 1:3). This includes all things in heaven and earth, visible and invisible. **All things are under His command.**

### 3. ) All things exist for Him (v. 16b).

**Everything exists in Him, for Him, and through Him.**

Jesus Christ is the Sphere in which they exist, the Agent through which they came into being, and the One for whom they were made.

Paul's use of **three different prepositions** is one way of refuting the philosophy of the false teachers. For centuries, the Greek philosophers had taught that everything needed a **primary cause, an instrumental cause, and a final cause**. The primary cause is the plan, the instrumental cause the power, and the final cause the purpose.



**When it comes to Creation, Jesus Christ is the primary cause (He planned it), the instrumental cause (He produced it), and the final cause (He did it for His own pleasure).**

If everything in creation exists for Him, **then nothing can be evil of itself** (except for Satan and fallen angels, **even those God uses to accomplish His will**).

Gnostic regulations about using God's creation are all foolish (Col. 2:20–23). It also means **that God's creation, even though under bondage to sin** (Rom. 8:22), **can be used for God's glory and enjoyed by God's people** (1 Tim. 6:17).

**Colossians 2:20-23** If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations-- "Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch" (referring to things that all perish as they are used)--**according to human precepts and teachings?** These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, **but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.**

**Romans 8:18-23** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, **in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.** For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, **who have the firstfruits of the Spirit**, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, **the redemption of our bodies.**

**1 Timothy 6:13-17** I charge you in the presence of **God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus,** who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, to keep the commandment unstained and free from reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which **he will display at the proper time-- he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords,** who alone has immortality, **who dwells in unapproachable light,** whom no one has ever seen or can see. **To him be honor and eternal dominion.** Amen. As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, **but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.**



#### **4.) He holds all things together (v. 17).**

“In Him all things hold together”. A guide took a group of people through an atomic laboratory and explained how all matter was composed of rapidly moving electric particles. The tourists studied models of molecules and were amazed to learn that matter is made up primarily of space. During the question period, one visitor asked, “If this is the way matter works, what holds it all together?” For that, the guide had no answer.

But the Christian has an answer: **Jesus Christ!**  
**Because “He is before all things,” He can hold all things together.**

Again, **this is another affirmation that Jesus Christ is God.** Only God exists before all of Creation, and **only God can make Creation cohere.**

**To make Jesus Christ less than God is to dethrone Him.**

It used to bother me to sing the familiar song, “This Is My Father’s World.” I thought Satan and sin were in control of this world. I have since changed my mind, and now I sing the song with joy and victory. **Jesus Christ made all things, He controls all things, and by Him all things hold together. Indeed, this is my Father’s world!**

**Isaiah 43:11-15** I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior. I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and I am God. Also henceforth I am he; there is none who can deliver from my hand; I work, and who can turn it back?" Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "For your sake I send to Babylon and bring them all down as fugitives, even the Chaldeans, in the ships in which they rejoice. I am the LORD, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King."

**If we truly understand who Jesus Christ is ...  
Then we will understand our need to be “In Him”!**

**Remember ...**

- 1.) He [Jesus Christ] existed before Creation.**
- 2.) He created all things.**
- 3. ) All things exist for Him.**
- 4.) He holds all things together.**

**Psalm 23** A Psalm of David. **The LORD is my shepherd;** I shall not want. **He** makes me lie down in green pastures. **He** leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. **He** leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for **you are with me;** your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **You** prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; **you** anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I **shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**



# Tell Me the Story of Jesus

## Hymn 215



# Holy Communion



# **The Family of God**

**I'm so glad to be part of the family of God**

**I've been washed in the fountain, cleansed by  
His blood**

**Joint heirs with Jesus as we travel this sod**

**For I'm part of the family, the family of God.**