

Message: Every Square Inch
Scripture: Colossians 1.15-20
Speaker: Dr. Michael Goheen
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Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵ The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 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. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ 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.

1. What can we do? The comprehensive tyranny of the powers

'For Paul, the powers were unseen forces working in the world . . . through the oppressive systems that enslaved or tyrannized human beings.' (NT Wright)

2. Rescued and redeemed from the dominion of darkness

3. The Son: More than a match for the powers

4. A comprehensive supremacy: Every square inch

There is not one square inch of the entire domain of human life of which Christ, the rightful Lord over all, does not proclaim: "This is Mine!" (Abraham Kuyper)

There is no neutral ground in the universe: every square inch, every split second, is claimed by God and counterclaimed by Satan. (CS Lewis)

5. The church: Born into a new dominion

A church living under the power of the supremacy of Christ would look like

- A community of self-control and marital fidelity in world saturated by sex.
- A community of truth (kind humility and gentle boldness) in world of relativism, uncertainty and suspicion.
- A community that knows God's presence in a secular world.
- A community of generosity and enough in world of consumption.
- A community of thankfulness in a world of entitlement.
- A community of praise in a world of narcissism.
- A community of self-giving love in a world of selfishness and self-gratification.
- A community of wisdom in a world of proliferating knowledge and information technology
- A community of patience in a world of immediate gratification.
- A community of compassion in a world numbed by overexposure to violence and tragedy.
- A community of joy in a world dominated by a frantic and hedonistic pursuit of pleasure.
- A community of depth in a culture of superficiality and triviality.
- A community committed to the important issues of our globe in a culture of apathy and indifference.
- A community of joyful and serious purpose in a culture 'amusing ourselves to death.'