

Savior Supreme  
The Head of the Church  
Colossians 1:17-18

Our culture strives for status. We want to make a name for ourselves. We want to be self-made. We learn from a very young age that we can do whatever we put our minds to, and while that may serve to inspire us work hard and achieve success, it also has a tendency to make us self-centered and narcissistic.

1. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ all things
2. Jesus holds \_\_\_\_\_ together
3. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church
4. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ from the dead
5. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ in all things

God owes no man anything. We cannot put him in our debt. In the covenant, God offers everything he offers because he loves us enough to offer it. No strings. No performance reviews. It is a gift that he promises to give based solely on the willingness of the recipient to receive it. How do we receive it? We participate in the promise by turning away from, by repenting of our narcissism, repenting of our selfishness, repenting of our pride and self-centeredness, and by faith embracing all that is good in Jesus.

Reflection

Consider the preeminence of Christ in all things. How should that affect your view of the church and more specifically your role in it? When it comes to the church, are you more concerned about how people in Lake City see Parkview, or are you more concerned about how they see Jesus? To some extent we should be concerned about both, but are we concerned about Parkview's reputation for the sake of Parkview or for the sake of the kingdom? Are there aspects of Parkview that could be seen as idolatrous in your life? What does the promise of the resurrection mean to you and how should that relate to your role in the church?