



## CELL GUIDE

**TOPIC** Faith in the Sovereignty of Jesus

**SPEAKER**

Pastor Jeffrey Aw

**THEME** Book Study (Colossians)

**DATE**

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# MESSAGE SUMMARY

## INTRODUCTION

Ps Aw opened with the basis for placing our trust and faith in the sovereignty of Jesus. He encouraged us to put in time and effort to get to know God personally. The outcome will be that we will be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that we will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. (Col 1:10) When we know God, we will be convinced that He is the Superior Creator God, Sovereign Leader of the Church and Saviour of the Universe.

## FAITH IN THE SOVEREIGNTY OF JESUS

### 1) Superior Creator God

“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.” (Col 1:15-17)

Ps Aw expounded on the meaning of “image” of the invisible God. He used the illustration of the Sun, light and heat as an analogy to the Trinity of God. The Sun represents the Father, the light of Sun represents Christ and the heat of the Sun represents the Holy Spirit. Similarly, Jesus Christ is God and man and yet one person. Jesus is one person who has both a divine nature and a human nature. The Father is not the Son or the Holy Spirit, the Son is not the Holy Spirit or the Father, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father or the Son. Yet, they all share the exact same divine nature.

It is only God the Son who became incarnate as shown in John 1:14, “And *the Word became flesh* and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.” In this context, the Word is God the Son.

The Greek for “firstborn” is *Prototokos* which is the word used in Colossians 1:15. The firstborn over all creation also means preeminence. John 1 states that “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Through Him, all things were made. God is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

## 2) Sovereign Leader of the Church

“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.” (Col 1:18-21)

As “firstborn of the dead,” Jesus is both first in time and first in preeminence. Being the first to be raised from the dead shows Jesus’ victory over sin and death. Jesus’ resurrection opens the way for all who trust in Him to follow Him in a resurrection like His when He returns. This is important because it shows that our ultimate hope is not just for our souls to go to heaven, but for our physical bodies to be raised to new life like Jesus’ body was.

Our next focus is on Christ’s preeminence and sufficiency in all things. Paul presented Christ as the center of the universe. Because of His divine nature, Jesus is sovereign and above all things with an authority given to Him by the Father. As such, Jesus is also Head over the Church. He has reconciled all things to Himself through His death on the cross, making believers alive to God and setting them on the path to right living.

Ps Aw urges us to look to Jesus as the Sovereign Leader of the Church especially when we encounter conflicts. If we are called to serve God in a ministry, we should be faithful and trust in Him to work things out in accordance to His will. In this process, we will develop the Christ-like nature.

## 3) Saviour of the Universe

“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. And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, He has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before Him.” (Col 1:19-23)

The fullness of God represents the majesty, power, and goodness of God that are manifested in and by Christ Jesus, and thus through Him the Father reconciles all things to Himself. It was God’s eternal plan that all the fullness of the Godhead should dwell in Christ. Jesus Christ was also part of the redemptive plan for this universe because He is a holy God. All the sin in the world goes against the holiness of God. We are separated from God due to our sins. By dying on the cross, Christ not only paid the price for our sins but freed us from the condemnation that is involved. This is the ultimate end of God’s plan of redemption for those who put their trust in Christ.

## CONCLUSION

Ps Aw urged those who have yet to believe in Jesus to place their faith and trust in Him. We are encouraged to continue in the faith by being stable, steadfast and not shift from the hope of the gospel (Jesus Christ).

# QUESTIONS

1. Paul describes who Jesus is in the opening chapter of Colossians, summarised in this week's sermon as the Superior Creator God, Sovereign Leader of the Church and Saviour of the Universe. Describe an experience where you have felt one of these identities of God or which of these identities speaks to you the most.

2. Knowing that as Christians we need to sin less but are not sin-less, and we will continue to face trials and tribulations in the Church until Christ comes again, what are personal weaknesses we can work on to mitigate these troubles?

3. Paul's certainty in the sovereignty of God seems to be unshakeable. Do we have a similar assurance and strength of faith? Share about the obstacles you face in an area of your life in which you still struggle to surrender control to our Creator, Leader and Saviour. Take time to pray for yourself and each other.