

Conclusion:

The encouragement Paul offers the Colossians is true for us today: Jesus is supreme and sufficient to present sinners as saints before a holy God. So, secure your soul; keep the faith.

**Keep the Faith**  
**Colossians 1.15-23**  
**September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**

## Introduction

Paul encourages them to stay \_\_\_\_\_ and keep the faith

He gives them \_\_\_\_\_ to do so

- “This statement, we may be sure, was not introduced merely for rhetorical effect. It occupies this position because an intelligent appreciation of the doctrine of Christ is the best safeguard against most forms of heretical teaching...” FF Bruce, *The Epistles to the Colossians, to Philemon, and to the Ephesians*. NICNT p. 55

## Main Points: Why should I follow Jesus? Because...

### 1. Christ is \_\_\_\_\_ - vs. 15-20

- He is the image of the invisible God
  - Exodus 33.20; John 14.9
- He is the firstborn of all creation
  - Psalm 89.27; Romans 8.29
- He created all things and all things were created for him
  - Hebrews 1.2, 11.3; Revelation 4.11
- He holds everything together
  - Hebrews 1.3
- He is the head of the church
  - Ephesians 1.22-23
- He is the beginning (and the end)
  - Revelation 21.6
- He is the firstborn of the dead
  - Revelation 1.5
- He is preeminent in all things
  - Nothing comes before him
- God, in all his fullness, dwells in him
  - John 1.16
- He is the ultimate peacemaker
  - Ephesians 2.13; Romans 3.25; Hebrews 2.17; 1John 2.2

### 2. We need a \_\_\_\_\_ - vs 21

- Rebellion against God severs \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
- Romans 1.18-32; James 1.14-15

### 3. Only Jesus can make us \_\_\_\_\_ - vs 22

- Jesus died to \_\_\_\_\_ us to himself so that he could present us as holy and blameless before God
- Jude 24; Ephesians 1.4, 5.27

### 4. We're safe only if we \_\_\_\_\_ in him - vs 23

- All covenant promises come with \_\_\_\_\_.
- “Genuine faith is seen in patient and steadfast day-to-day Christian living, while counterfeit faith, so hard in its early stages to distinguish from the real thing, withers and dies. From God’s point of view, genuine faith is assured of continuing to the end. From the human point of view, Christians discover whether their faith is of the genuine sort only by patient perseverance, encouraged (cf. Rom. 5:1-5) by the Christian hope.”<sup>1</sup>
- John 15.4-6; 1Corinthians 9.23-25; Revelation 14.12

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<sup>1</sup> Wright, N. T. (1986). [Colossians and Philemon: an introduction and commentary](#) (Vol. 12, pp. 87-88). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.