Colossians 1:15-20

OPENING AND PROBLEM ANALYSIS
Problem:
Christ is not supreme in our worldview.
It has these important manifestations:
- Christ-consciousness shrinks when we don’t see Christ in the first creation.
- Christ-worship shrinks when we don’t see Christ in the re-creation.
- Christ-hope shrinks when we don’t see Christ in the new creation.

Allusion to the Solution:
The Colossians had a similar problem and were suffering similar consequences. Christ was not supreme in their worldview. Christ was squeezed out of or down in their world view and others were taking his place. It damaged their view of creation, the church, and the consummation (future).

TRANSITION
Let’s look at how Paul helped the Colossians recover the supremacy of Christ, so that we can get help too.

FIRST INSIGHT
Christ is supreme in the first creation (14-17)
Data:
- He created all things
- He is before all things
- He holds together all things

TRANSITION
But the first creation is broken and dysfunctional. Can Christ do anything about that?

SECOND INSIGHT
Christ is supreme in the re-creation (18)
Data:
- He is the head of the church
- He is the life of the church

TRANSITION
But the church is also broken and dysfunctional. Can Christ do anything about that?

THIRD INSIGHT
Christ is supreme in the new creation (19-20)
Data:
- He is the fulness of God
- He is the reconciler to God

TRANSITION
In sum, when something other than Christ is supreme we have a big problem. But Paul has shown us how to restore his supremacy in our worldview.

CLOSING/CALL TO ACTION
1. When Christ is not supreme in our worldview, we don’t see him in the past, present or future. This diminishes consciousness of Christ, worship of Christ, and hope of on Christ.
2. When we see Christ as supreme in the first creation, the re-creation, and the new creation, we will increase Christ-consciousness, Christ-worship, and Christ-hope.
3. Live for Christ as supreme over all time and places.