

First, The Person of Christ (15)

- 1) Paul **Shifts** From Our Forgiveness & Redemption → To Person & Glory of the **Redeemer** Himself
- 2) **See Place of Cross of Xp** → In **Larger Cosmic Drama** of **Human History** → Eternal Purposes of God
 - a) Hard To Overestimate == Magnitude of What God Says Here @ Glory of His Son Jesus
 - b) All **Revealed** @ Glory of Eternal Son of God == **Culminates** In **(19-20)** == Incarnation & Cross
- 3) There Are Those Who Want to Minimize Or Deny → **Uniqueness—Glory & Deity** of **Jesus Christ**
 - a) But I Say == **Read** the Bible → Listen To Scriptures! → **Hear** What It Says → **Hear** What He Says
- 4) **(15)** Jesus == Image of the Invisible God → **Speaks** of Person of Christ → **Essential** Relat/ To Father
 - a) Son Images Father == **So That** In Xp == See **What Father Looks Like** → Portrait—Photograph
 - b) **Invisible God Made Visible** → Not Physically → Don't Even Know What Jesus Looked Like
 - c) His Moral & Spiritual Character == Revealed == **See What God Is Like** → Study Life & Interactions
 - d) John 14:9—"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, Show us the Father?"
 - e) Images & Reveals Father **To Such Pure & Accurate Degree** == As Good As Seeing God the Father
 - f) Heb. 1:3—"He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power" → Holy—Rteous—Pure—Loving—Gracious—Wise **Like God**
- 5) Firstborn of All Creation → **Preeminence** In Relat/ To Creator → **Preeminence** In Relat/ Creation
 - a) Some Argued → **Firstborn of Creation Means** == Part of Creation → **First Created Thing**
 - b) But This **Misunderstands** Whole Point → **Jesus Born Late In Time** → Not Firstborn Human
 - c) **Unique** Human Being == **Which Is Point** == **Takes Place & Rights** of **Firstborn** Bec/ Who He Is
 - d) John 1:14—"Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father" → **Metaphor** == Only & Unique Son of God == Firstborn & Heir of All Things
 - e) Heb. 1:2—"In these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things"
- 6) As Firstborn Jesus Forerunner of New Humanity → **Such That** Anyone In Xp == New Creation
- 7) Jesus Images & Reveals God To Creation → **Stands** As Firstborn of **Recreated** Humanity in God's Image

Second, The Glory of Christ (16-19)

- 1) **(16) By Him All Things == Created == Creator of Everything** → Heaven—Earth—Visible—Invisible
 - a) John 1:1-3—*"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."* → Nothing Exists == Not Created Thru Xp == Creator God
 - b) Heb. 1:2-3—*"In these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God"*
 - c) God Created World → Yet World Made Thru Jesus → Not Touch More Clearly Deity of Xp
 - d) Creation == Trinitarian Work → Father Created Thru Son → Word of God → Spirit Hovered
 - e) When Says thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities → Jesus == Power Made Every Other Power
- 2) **Thru Him & For Him** → Whole Cosmos == Visible & Invisible == Made For Jesus == Purpose & End
 - a) Col. 3:17—*"Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."* → You Exist For Him → For His Purpose & Glory
- 3) **(17) Sustainer** → Before All Things == **Before Abe Was, I AM** == Pre-Exists Creation → Enters World
 - a) John 16:28—*"I came from the Father and have come into the world"* → Wasn't Just Born == Came
 - b) Person—Power == Existed Before World → Who Created World → Now Continues Sustaining World
 - c) Heb. 1:3—*"He upholds the universe by the word of his power == In Him By His Word == All Things Hold*
 - d) IOW == Power Behind Existence of All == Ever Existed == Jesus Christ → Who Is Like Our Jesus?
- 4) **(18) This Is The Guy Who** Head of Body—the Church → Beginning & Firstborn From Dead
 - a) 1 Cor 15:23—*"But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ."* → First of Many Raised From Dead == Beginning of New Creation → New Humanity
- 5) So That In Everything → Over Everything == Jesus Christ == Preeminent → Exalted Above All
 - a) Unique In History of World → Unique Son of God → Unique—Only Lord & Savior of World

- b) No One Like Him → No One! == If His Resume Not Impressive Enough → Blows Top Off
- 6) **(19)** Incarnation → Here == Reach Fullness of Revelation of Glory of Jesus Christ == Very Glory of God
- a) **(2:9)** "In him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily" == God Took On Human Body == Incarnation
- b) Man Jesus == More Than Man → Yes Truly Man == Also Truly == Whole Fullness of Deity
- c) Here Tread On Holy Ground → Mystery of God-Man == of Trinity
- d) Jesus Could Image God In His Humanity == Bec/ He Was God In Flesh
- 7) Explains So Much → There Are Those Who Doubt Jesus' Miracles → Healing—Walking On Water
- a) But These Are Nothing → If What This Passage Says Is True == If Jesus is Who Said He Was
- 8) Listen To Scriptures! → Hear What It Says == When Think of The One Who Hung On Cross

Third, Reconciliation & Peace (20)

- 1) By Time Reach (20) Heart & Imagination Overwhelmed W/ Unique Glory of Redeemer—Reconciler
- 2) When Says == "Thru Him" == Very Image of God—Preexisting Creating—Sustaining Power of Universe
- a) Beginning—Firstborn of Creation → Firstborn From Dead
- b) The One In Whom All Fullness of Deity Dwells in Body == Preeminent Being Over All Creation
- 3) Thru Him!! == God Reconciling All Things → Thru Him! Making Peace → By Blood—Of His Cross
- a) Peace & Reconciliation → Betw/ God & Humanity → Bringer of Peace Where Wrath & Hostility
- 4) God Became Man → Lived Perfect Life You & I Fail To Live == So That Offer His Life In Our Place
- a) He Came == Took On Flesh & Bone → So Could Bleed & Die → Pay Penalty For Guilt of Our Sin
- b) Where There Is Forgiveness of Sin == Reconciliation & Peace W/ God
- 5) Who Is Like Jesus? → Who Compares To Glory of His Person? → Who Can Save Like Jesus Christ?
- a) There Is No One → Jesus Stands Unique & Alone → In Power—Glory--

Finally, Applying the Truth

- 1) **Reflect—Meditate** On Glory & Uniqueness of Jesus Christ → To Know—Love—Trust—Worship Him
 - a) **Renews** Our Minds → **Strengthens** Our Faith → Informs & Encourages **Our Worship**
- 2) Revelation of Glory of Jesus == Assures & Strengthens **Our Confidence** In Sufficiency of the Redeemer
 - a) All Things → **In Heaven Or On Earth** → All Things Within Scope of the Power of His Blood
 - b) As Both God & Man **Uniquely Qualified To Serve** As Mediator → **Shares** Humanity → **Infinite Value**
 - c) 1 Tim. 2:5—“There is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus”
 - d) One Mediator == One Way To Find Peace & Be Reconciled to God
 - e) Do You Have Peace W/ God? → Has His Blood Put To Rest Hostility Betw/ You & God
- 3) **Created** By Him & For Him → Made Us For Himself → Exist For Him == To Know—Love—Serve Him
 - a) This Heart of **Humanity’s** Rebellion → **Need** For Reconciliation == **Live For Selves Instead of Him**
 - b) Is. 53:6—“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned-- every one-- to his own way”
 - c) Sin == **Living** For Selves → **Going Own Way** → **Doing What We Want** → Ignoring God’s Will
 - d) 2 Cor. 5:15—“He died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him”
 - e) **Where** Are You Going Your Own Way → **Living For Self Instead of For Christ the King?**
- 4) **Centrality** of Cross In History of World → In Purposes of God → Life—Ministry—Message of Church
 - a) **All Christ Reveals Self To Be** → Funnels Down Onto To Cross → Thru Him—Blood of Cross
 - b) **All Reconciling & Saving Purposes of God** → **Accomplished** → So Preach Cross == **Uniqueness!**
 - c) Gal. 6:14—“Far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.” → Only In Cross == Freedom Of New Life
 - d) 1 Cor 2:2—“For I decided to **know nothing** among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.”
 - e) Sad to See Churches Preaching Politics—Stories—Morality—Best Life == Only Xp & His Cross
 - f) This == Unique Message In All World → We Stand As Light In Darkness → Preach the Cross