The Preeminence of Christ  
Col. 1:15-18

Introduction:
A. The preeminence (first place) of Christ, the theme of Colossians.  
   1. The firstborn over all creation. (vv. 15-17)
   2. The firstborn from the dead. (v. 18).
B. The preeminence of Christ in several areas is discussed in Colossians:

Discussion:
I. Jesus Christ Is Number One In Our Salvation. (cf. Acts 4:12).
   A. Only in Christ is salvation available
   B. Only in Him we can be:
      1. Partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. (v. 13)
      2. Delivered from the power of darkness. (v. 13)
      3. Conveyed (translated) in the kingdom. (v. 13)
      4. Redeemed through His blood. (v. 14).
      5. Forgiven of sins. (v. 14).
      6. Reconciled to God. (vv. 19-23).
   C. Only in Christ we have hope of heaven. (1:3-5).
   D. Our salvation and hope in Him are conditional. (1:23; 2:11-13; cf. Acts 2:38)

II. Jesus Christ Is Number One In The Church
   A. He is the head of it. (1:18; 2:19).
   B. He purchased it. (Acts 20:28).
   C. He is to be glorified in it. (cf. Eph. 3:14-21) rather than man. (cf. 1 Cor. 1:10-13).

III. Jesus Christ Is To Be Number One In Our Preaching and Practice
   A. Rather human philosophy. (2:1-10).
   B. Rather than O.T. law. (2:14-14).
   C. Rather than human tradition and regulations. (2:18-23).

IV. Jesus Christ Is To Be Number One In Our Minds And Hearts. (3:1-2)
   A. The results of an earth-centered mind. (3:5-9).
   B. The results of a Christ-centered mind. (3:12-17).

V. Jesus Christ Is To Be Number One In Our Homes
   A. As Husbands and wives as is fitting in the Lord. (3:18-19; cf. Eph. 5:22-29; 1 Pet. 3:1-7).
      1. Husband is highest authority under Christ in home.
      2. Wife also a guide, manager, ruler of house -- second in command. (cf. 1 Tim. 5:14).
   B. As Parents and children well pleasing to the Lord. (3:20-21).

Conclusion:
A. Are you ready to make Christ number one in your life?
B. Believe in Him. (John 8:24). Confess His name.
C. Repent and Be Baptized in His name. (Acts 2:38).
D. Do all in his name. (Col. 3:17)