

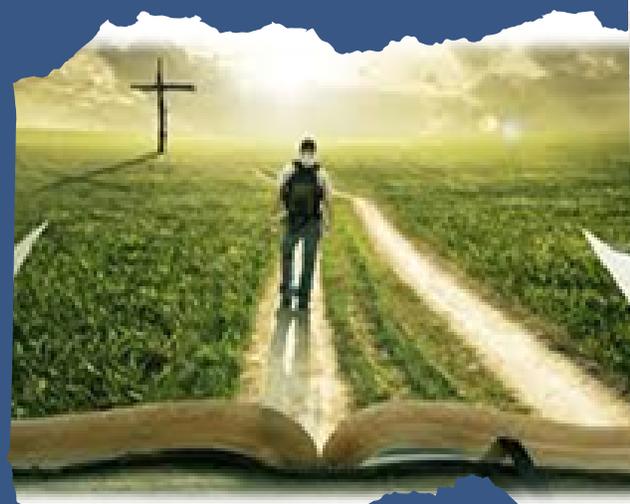


A Publication of  
Princeton Christian Church

# The Princeton Path **FINDER**

He accepts anyone who worships him and does what is right. It is not important what nation they come from. God has spoken to the people of Israel. He sent them the Good News that peace has come through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all people.

*Acts 10: 35-36 ERV*



**Winter Edition**

*1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2026*

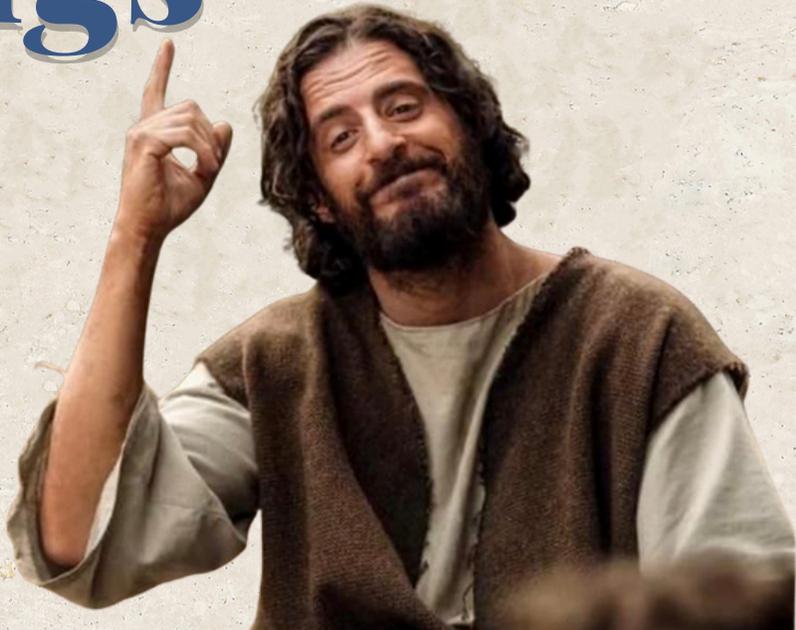
# Jesus Is Lord of Beginnings

**In This Issue**

**YES, Jesus Is!**

**In the Beginning...GOD**

**The Lord of New Beginnings**



A young college freshman walked into his first day of class and settled in for the instructor. The professor of Philosophy passed out a syllabus and explained what would be expected of the students during the course for the semester. The young student grew more and more excited, as he listened to all of the great thinkers they would be studying throughout the upcoming months.

Suddenly, the professor changed tones and began to speak about one of the thinkers in a different manner. He said, "When we come to that section, we will cover the subject of Jesus, and you must know this; what you may have heard in Sunday school or at your church concerning Jesus is wrong...

Jesus was a great teacher. He was a wise man. He did many good things. He influenced many people during his day and even unto this day, but he was not the Son of God." There was a long pause, as the freshmen sat attentively, not daring to challenge the man with Ph.D. following his name...

The atmosphere was so uneasy that it seemed like hours had passed with the silence so thick you could cut it with a knife. Then, a hand pierced the silence in the back of the room as one young man lifted his hand to speak. The professor called on the young student and he said, **"Yes, He is!"** The professor said, "Now I know you've probably been told other things back home from your pastor or Sunday school teacher, but you need to know young man that Jesus was not the Son of God, he was merely a great thinker. Class dismissed."



As the students filed out of class, one of the young man's friends from back home chastised him on the way out of class. "What are you doing? This man is the professor and you and I are just students. Don't ruin this class for the rest of us, just shut-up, and do your work." But the student said, "This man may know a lot about philosophy, but I can tell already that he doesn't know anything about Jesus. I can't just sit back in class and let him try and convince everyone in class that Jesus was something less than He really is. I'm going to speak up."

The next time the class met, the professor started in on his tirade all over again. He pointed out that the Bible was written by biased folks who believed in Jesus, that there were other people in history who were reported to have been born of a virgin, and that Jesus could not have risen from the grave. Then he said, "Jesus was not the Son of God." The student's hand immediately shot-up into the air once again. The professor tried to ignore him as he went on with his anti-Jesus sermon, but he persisted. Finally, the professor realized that he would not go away and so he called on him. The professor said in a demeaning way, "Yes Mr. Jackson, do you have another sermon for us this morning?" The student once again said, **"Yes, He is!"** The professor turned his attack from Jesus to the student, but he continued throughout the entire semester to stand up for Jesus...

Some years later, the preacher of a Christian Church in Memphis, Tennessee was speaking at the General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). At the conclusion of his sermon some of the people came up to speak to him and let him know what a powerful sermon he had preached. When the crowd had dispersed there was one man who stood before him -- his old college professor. The man walked up to him, hugged him, looked him in the eyes, and said, **"Yes, He is!"**

**Yes! He is!** I'm posting this article just to let you know that the student was right, **"Yes He is!"** He is the King of all kings! He is the Lord of all lords! He is the Lily of the valley! He is the Bright and Morning Star! He is the Alpha and Omega! He is the Prince of Peace! He is God!

\*\*\*\*\*

As Paul sat down to write to the brothers and sisters in Colossae, he wanted them to be able to know that there is no other name above the name of Jesus. Paul wanted the believers to have the full knowledge of the glory and majesty of Jesus. He wanted them to know that Jesus was the Creator, Sustainer, and Hope of all life throughout the universe!

As Paul sat down to write to the brothers and sisters in Colossae, he wanted them to be able to know that there is no other name above the name of Jesus. Paul wanted the believers to have the full knowledge of the glory and majesty of Jesus. He wanted them to know that Jesus was the Creator, Sustainer, and Hope of all life throughout the universe!

*{15} He is the image of the invisible God, the first born over all creation. {16} For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. {17} He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. {18} And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the first born from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. {19} For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, {20} and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

This is one of the richest sections of Scripture in the entire Bible. We could spend literally hours upon hours studying each of the rich Greek words that can greatly deepen our understanding of the supremacy and glory of Jesus our Savior. Because I'm limited in the amount of space I have available for this article...

I want to bring something out into the open. There exists today a very dangerous and deadly disease running rampant in the church. What I am talking about is this: We want little pieces of Truth that can help us in little pieces of our life rather than spending the time necessary to develop the whole realm of our walk with God.

What Paul is desiring for the brothers and sisters in Colossae and what I am desiring for each of us is that we would come to understand the supremacy of our Savior for all of life!

Jesus is sufficient! Jesus is able! Jesus is Lord and King over all things in every place at all times!

### Let's take a look at verse 15...

*(15) He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*

Paul doesn't mince any words. He doesn't mumble when it comes to what he knows about Jesus in comparing Him to the other revered beings of Colossae. Paul says, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation." I am convinced that if you and I will let this one little verse sink deep into our hearts then the rest of the picture will come into clear focus. We need to understand just how awesome and majestic, how powerful and glorious our King and Savior Jesus truly is...

When Paul says that Jesus is the "image" of God, what does he mean? Genesis says that you and I are created in the image of God, so does Paul mean that Jesus is merely one of us? Created like we are? Not hardly...

There is one Truth  
and therefore one  
Reality.

Truth doesn't need to sell itself.

Truth stands alone.

Truth exists, even when not seen.

Distortion needs a host.

Distortion struts, lies, manipulates, and seduces to convince a person to choose it.

Distortion dies without a host.

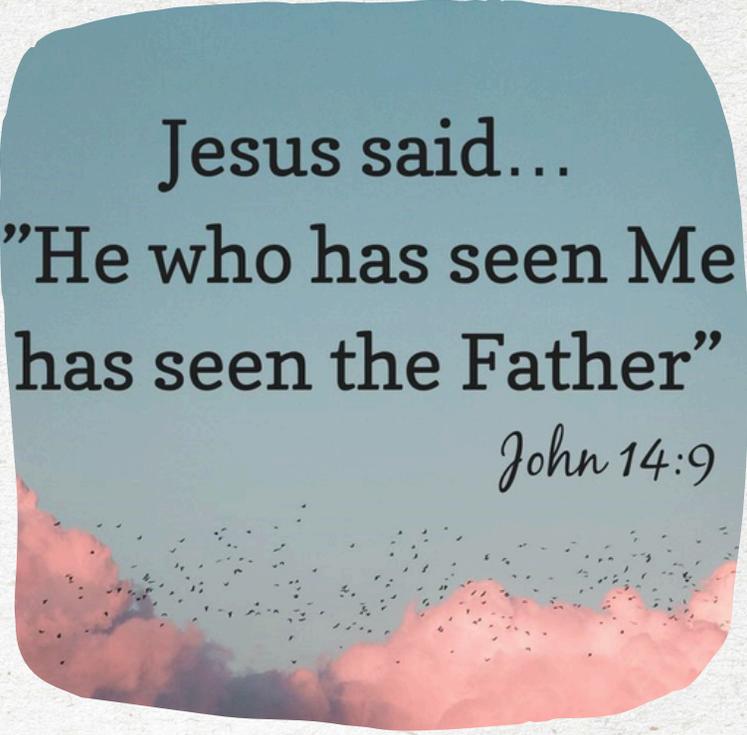
The word Paul uses for "image" is a unique word that occurs only six times in the Greek New Testament. The word expresses two different ideas. One is "likeness" and the other is "manifestation." What Paul is trying to teach the Colossians is that Jesus is the visible image of the invisible God. God is invisible and therefore we can't see God, but we can see Jesus, the one who lived and moved among the masses for thirty-three years, the exact representation of all that God is...

You and I both know that we can hear flowery sermons on love, but they will never even begin to compare to being loved by Jesus or our Holy Father. We can hear erudite scholars enunciate the finer points of compassion, but they will never begin to compare with having someone show us compassion. We can study day-after-day the methods and models of prayer, but they can't benefit us nearly as much as hearing a prayer-warrior pour his or her heart out before God. Just as love, compassion, and prayer with "skin on" will always leave a more lasting mark, so God with "skin on" will touch us in a deeper way than mere standards and procedures handed down from on high. God, in His infinite wisdom, has given us Jesus, God with "skin on" if you will, so that we might behold His glory, majesty, and grace. The writer of Hebrews said, Jesus is the exact representation of Almighty God. If you want to know the heart of God all you have to do is get to know the heart of Jesus. If you want to know the love of God, all you have to do is get to know the love of Jesus. If you want to know the will of God for, all of His creation then all you have to do is get to know the will of Jesus for all of His creation. Plainly put, Jesus is God with skin on!

We as people don't do so well with the intangible, those things that we can't see, taste, touch, or hear. God in His infinite wisdom has made Himself known to us through His Son so that we can tangibly come to know His deep love, compassion, and power for each of us.

"He is the King of kings, the radiance of His glory, the Lord of the spaceless, fabulous, infinite universe, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, unspeakably holy, dwelling in light, unapproachable, changeless...and yet

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Jesus said...  
"He who has seen Me  
has seen the Father"

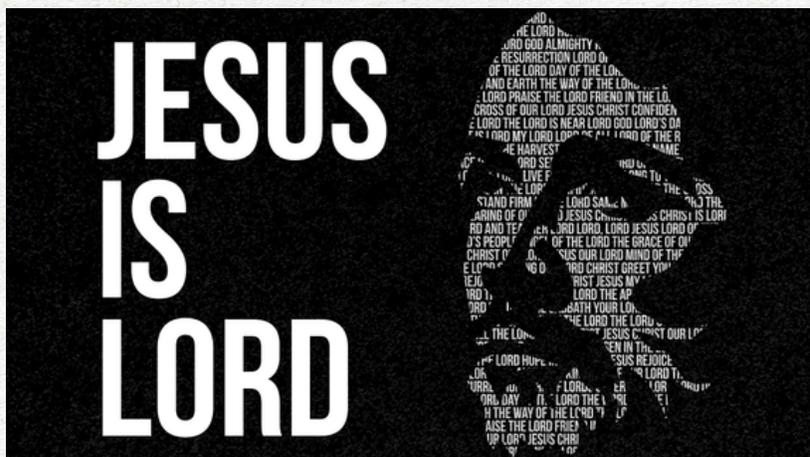
*John 14:9*

*He came to His own, and His own received Him not...*

**John 1:11**

The loftiest and most exalted became the embodiment of humility and simplicity.  
The richest became the poorest that the poor might become rich.  
He came out of dry ground to become a fruitful vine.  
He feasted with publicans and sinners that they might not starve in their sin.  
He starved for 40 days in the wilderness that we might feast on the impeccable Bread of Life.  
He taught us to love our enemies, to do good to those who treat us badly.  
He emptied Himself that we might be filled.  
Mighty conquerors with vast armies and terrible weapons have sought in vain to subdue the world -- He conquered a vast kingdom with simple weapons of agape.  
The Lion became the Lamb that sheep might become shepherds.  
His heart was broken that He might bind up the broken-hearted.  
His body was crushed that we might be made whole.  
We come into the world to live; He came to die.  
The purest One was called illegitimate, blasphemer, winebibber, glutton and imposter by guilty sinners.  
The Lord of lords became a lowly servant to serve the pitiful needs of mankind.  
The Man of Sorrows acquainted with the depths of grief became the joy of the world.  
He was rejected that we might be accepted.  
He was bruised that we may be healed.  
He was condemned that we might be justified.  
He was judged that we would not be judged.  
He was deserted for a time by the Father that we might find access to the Father.  
He died as the innocent One that the guilty might be declared innocent.  
By grasping life we die; through death we find life.  
Glory to the Lamb, the Paradox of God.

(Dr. Anthony Fortosis, quoted in Prokope, November/December, 1992, Page 4)



The infinite love of God for you and for me was made known in the baby who grew to become a man who suffered and died that we might live, truly live in the knowledge of His great love and compassion for us. Jesus has come to make God known to each of us. There is no other who so fully reveals the heart of God because Jesus wasn't a good man trying to do right, He was God simply being Himself.

The last section of verse 15 is one of the most controversial phrases in our text. The phrase, "*the firstborn over all creation*," has and is being misused to lead people astray. When Paul writes, "*Jesus is the firstborn over all of creation*" he doesn't desire to imply that Jesus Himself was a created being of God. This is the teaching of the Jehovah Witnesses today that is rooted in an idea that was present in Paul's day, but it certainly wasn't the teaching of Paul...

The word Paul uses which is translated, "*firstborn*," is the word, "**prwto,tokoj**" (prototokos). The definition from the Greek dictionary is, "**firstborn, existing before;**" (1) Literally as the oldest son in a family (*Luke 2.7; Hebrews 11.28*). (2) Used of Jesus Christ; as the unique preexistent Son of the heavenly Father (*Hebrews 1.6*); as the one existing before all creation (*Corinthians 1.15*); as the first to be resurrected from the dead (*Corinthians 1.18*); as the head of a spiritual family of "many siblings" (*Romans 8.29*).

Paul uses the word to let us know that Jesus has top priority -- He is supreme over all others! There are many wonders of God's creation, but God says that every wonder and marvel that has ever been discovered is subservient to Jesus -- the Creator of everything there has ever been or ever will be. God's desire is that we who have been created will be conformed to the image of His Son, the Lord of creation! In *Romans 8:29*, Paul wrote, "**For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.**" (*Rom 8:29 NIV*) Jesus is the King of the hill!



*Did you know that when we manifest godly character, people glimpse God's image in us?*

Paul never intended to give anyone the idea that Jesus is the first of all created beings. When we study the word used by Paul, we see that Jesus holds preeminence, priority, rights and privileges that none of God's creation can claim. The word used alludes to the cultural practice of the Jews seen in biblical times. The first born in any family held certain rights and privileges that no other child in the family could claim. To be "firstborn" was a positional blessing, a place of privilege.

God has made Jesus the preeminent, paramount, most-excellent Ruler over all of creation. There may be some great folks who have lived in years passed. There may be some folks of great fame even in our day, but there is

God has made Jesus the preeminent, paramount, most-excellent Ruler over all of creation. There may be some great folks who have lived in years passed. There may be some folks of great fame even in our day, but there is  
*In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, {2} but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.* (Heb 1:1-2 NIV)

God has made Jesus the heir of all things. All things belong to Jesus. They are His. There will be no decision to be made concerning who has rightful ownership because God has already settled all of that by proclaiming that it all belongs to Jesus! What is truly amazing is that God has made you and me, anyone who will trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior co-heirs with Christ! What God has given to Jesus will be given to those who place their trust in His saving work on the cross. If that doesn't boggle your mind then you need a brain scan! Check out the following passages to see God's intention for you and for me.

*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. {17} Now if we are children, then we are heirs -- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. (Rom 8:16-17 NIV)*

*You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, {27} for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. {28} There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. {29} If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Gal 3:26-29 NIV)*

*In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, {5} which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. {6} This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus. {7} I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. {8} Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, {9} and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. {10} His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, {11} according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. {12} In Him and through faith in Him we may enter God's presence with boldness and confidence. (Eph 3: 4-12)*

*But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, {5} he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, {6} whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, {7} so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. {8} This is a trustworthy saying. And I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone. (Titus 3:4-8 NIV)*

**"The Bible is God's revelation  
of Himself. It was not written  
to reveal things, it was  
written to reveal God."**



Those will trust in Jesus are heirs of the promises of God. What implications does that have for our lives? I'm so glad you asked. In Christ We Have--

I hope that through this study you have come to realize the sufficiency of Jesus Christ, the salvation of Jesus Christ, the hope that rest in only Jesus Christ. Jesus is able because He and He alone is God! Won't you invite Him to come into your heart and be your Lord and Savior this day?  
YES, JESUS IS!

- A love that can never be fathomed
- A life that can never die
- A righteousness that can never be tarnished
- A peace that can never be understood
- A rest that can never be disturbed
- A joy that can never be diminished
- A hope that can never be disappointed
- A glory that can never be clouded
- A light that can never be darkened
- A purity that can never be defiled
- A beauty that can never be marred
- A wisdom that can never be baffled

~Robin Fortner



In this edition of The Princeton PathFinder we are looking at the concept that Jesus is the Lord of beginnings.

In the beginning, before everything began. Before time began, before the stars were set in place, before the earth was shaped, there was an originator of that beginning. We often think of beginnings as events that mark a new chapter or a fresh start, but The Beginner of all beginnings is much more profound, and He lays the very foundation of everything.

The world we know today, our lives, and our faith all have their roots in this foundation. As we explore the foundation of creation through the pages of Genesis and the Gospel of John, we'll also examine how these foundational truths speak into the contemporary issues we face today—issues like identity, purpose, belonging, and the search for meaning in an often broken and turbulent world. By looking at the foundation laid by God at the beginning, we can find hope, stability, and direction in the chaos of life today.

### **The Beginning of the Physical World** *(Genesis 1:1-3)*

In order to begin looking at the beginning of our physical world, we must logically begin at the beginning, so let's start with the opening verses of the Bible:

**“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”**

*(Genesis 1:1)*

The first word we encounter in Genesis is **“Elohim”** (אלהים), the Hebrew name for God used in this verse. Elohim is a plural form, suggesting a fullness of majesty and power. In the very first verse, the plurality of God is already evident—though God is one, He is revealed in a complex unity. Elohim as Creator speaks to God's omnipotence, the power to create from nothing.

The foundation of the physical world was laid through God's powerful Word. Elohim did not have to create painstakingly; it did not take Him billions and billions of years to create and then have to work out all the little kinks. Our Mighty God simply spoke everything into perfect existence, and all of creation came into instant being. When we look at creation through the lens of Elohim, we are reminded that our world—with all its beauty, order, and complexity—is not random...

It is purposeful and divinely designed.

**Created**  
*with purpose*

This foundational truth is relevant in our modern world, where many are searching for meaning and purpose. In a society that often sees life as a series of coincidences or random events, the name Elohim challenges us to see God’s hand in everything—our purpose, our identity, and our calling all stem from a Creator who has designed us for a purpose.

Elohim assures us that God is sovereign. Everything in creation points to the reality that God is in control and involved in the world He created.

**The Beginning of the Spiritual World** *(John 1:1-5)*

Now, let’s turn to the Gospel of John, where the foundation of the spiritual world is revealed:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.”

*(John 1:1- 3)*

Here, John introduces the Word (*Greek: Logos λόγος*), a concept rich in both Jewish and Greek thought. The Logos is the divine expression of God’s Will, the means through which creation was brought into existence. Jesus, as the Logos, was both with God and was God. He (*Logos, The Word, Jesus*) was present at earth’s and humanity’s beginning—not just in creation, but from all eternity.

The name Logos refers to Jesus, the eternal Word of God, who reveals God’s ultimate plan for the universe.

Theologically, Logos emphasizes that Jesus is the foundation of spiritual truth. He is the eternal principle that gives life, light, and meaning to the world.

**Through Logos, God’s revelation is brought to humanity.**

This is especially important in our world today, where people often turn to philosophies, self-help strategies, or personal experience for meaning. The name Logos tells us that true understanding of life and purpose can only come through Christ, the “**author** (originator i.e. Alpha) **and Perfector** (finisher i.e. Omega) **of our faith**” *Hebrews 12:2*.

**Jesus is the revelation of the Father, the ultimate truth by which all things are understood.**

ΛΟΓΟΣ  
(Logos)  
Word/Divine Order

THE SAME WORD WE USE FOR "WORD." IN GREEK IT MEANS DIVINE INTELLIGENCE SPOKEN INTO BEING - GOD'S WISDOM ORDERING CREATION (JOHN 1:1).

WHAT THE WORLD CALLS LANGUAGE OR REASON, SCRIPTURE CALLS THE ETERNAL WORD AT WORK.

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(Jesus)Logos teaches us that the spiritual foundation of our world is centered in Jesus Christ. He is the ultimate truth, the source of light and life, and the revealer of God's will for humanity.

### **The Foundation of Life and Purpose** *(Colossians 1:16-17)*

In Colossians 1, the Apostle Paul continues to deepen our understanding of Christ's foundational role in creation:

“For in Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.” *(Colossians 1:16-17)*

Here, Paul introduces the Greek term **Kyrios** (Κύριος), meaning Lord, which emphasizes Christ's sovereignty over all things. He is not just the Creator but the Sustainer of creation. In Him, all things hold together.

Without Christ, nothing would continue to exist. He is the Lord over all, the foundation that sustains both the physical and spiritual realms.

This truth speaks directly to our modern anxieties. We live in a world where systems break down, relationships fracture, and order seems elusive. The name **Kyrios** reminds us that, in the midst of the chaos, there is a sovereign Lord holding all things together.

The foundation of the world is not fragile; it is secure because Christ is the Lord over all creation.



Kyrios (Greek: κύριος) is a Koine Greek word predominantly translated as "Lord," "Master," or "Owner," denoting supreme authority, power, and possession. It appears over 700 times in the New Testament to signify divine sovereignty, referring to God in the Old Testament and to Jesus in the New Testament.

**The Beginning of Redemption** *(Revelation 21:1-5)*

Finally, as we look to the future, we see God's ultimate plan for redemption and restoration. In the Book of Revelation, we read of the new heaven and new earth, where God will make all things new:

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away... He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

*(Revelation 21:1-4)*

In this passage, we encounter the name **El Shaddai** (אֱלֹהֵי שַׁדַּי), often translated as "**God Almighty**," or "**The God Who Is More Than Enough**". It speaks to God's all-sufficiency and His absolute sovereignty to fulfill His promises. El Shaddai is the one who, through His mighty power, will restore the brokenness of creation and renew all things. The name points to God's ability to bring about ultimate redemption and complete restoration.

This is a comforting truth for our modern world, where we see so much suffering, pain, and brokenness. The name El Shaddai reminds us that God will not abandon His creation. He is the Almighty who will bring about the final restoration of all things, where pain, suffering, and death will be no more. The foundation of our hope lies in the reality that God has already begun the work of restoration through Christ, and one day, He will bring it to completion.

El Shaddai assures us that God is capable of fulfilling His promises. In a world marked by suffering and uncertainty, we can take comfort in the fact that God is the Almighty who will bring about the new heaven and new earth, where all things will be made new.

**Building on a Secure Foundation** *(Matthew 7:24-27)*

As we reflect on the beginning of all things—the creation of the world through Elohim, the revelation of the eternal Word through Logos, the sustaining power of Kyrios, and the hope of ultimate redemption through El Shaddai—we are reminded that the foundation of our lives, our faith, and the world itself is unshakeable.



“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell—and great was its fall.” *Matthew 7: 24-27*

In a world of uncertainty, confusion, and pain, we are called to build our lives on the secure foundation laid by God Himself. Whether we face personal storms, societal shifts, or global crises, we can trust that God is in control. His names speak to His sovereignty, faithfulness, and power—He is Elohim, the Creator; Logos, the Revealer; Kyrios, the Sustainer; and El Shaddai, the Almighty Redeemer. Stand Firm on the Foundation.

As we face the complexities and challenges of life, let us remember the foundation of beginnings—the foundation that is secure in God. Jesus Christ, the Logos, is the center of creation, the Lord of all, and the Almighty Redeemer. Let us build our lives on the truth of who He is.

Let our identity and purpose be rooted in His sovereign will, His eternal Word, and His unfailing promises.

May we have the confidence to stand firm, knowing that, though the storms of life may rage, we are built upon the foundation that cannot be shaken.

As we reflect on the truth that Jesus is the beginning of everything, we are reminded that He is not merely a part of creation but its Source and Sustainer. From the opening verses of Genesis to the profound declarations in John 1, we see that Jesus is the Logos, the eternal Word through whom all things were made. He is the foundation of the world, and He is also the foundation of our lives.



In a world where priorities often shift and the future feels uncertain, the Bible makes it clear that Jesus must be our first priority—the One on whom we build everything. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are unified in their purpose and will, and Jesus as the Son is the center of this divine unity. When we make Jesus our foundation, we align ourselves with the unchanging, unshakable will of God.

Just as Jesus was the beginning of creation, He is also the solid rock on which we can securely build our lives.

In Matthew 7:24-27, He calls us to build on the rock, not on the shifting sands of our circumstances. Storms will come—personal struggles, worldly challenges, and the inevitable uncertainties of life. But when we stand on the foundation of Jesus, we can be confident that no matter the storm, our lives will remain unshaken.

Jesus is not just the foundation of the world; He is the foundation of our faith, our hope, and our future. He is the unmovable rock, the solid foundation that will never fail us. Let us build our lives on Him, making Him the first priority (the Lord of our Beginnings) in everything we do, for in Him alone we find true stability, purpose, and peace.

~Aaron Jones

*The Lord is my **ROCK**,  
my **FORTRESS**, and my Savior;  
my God is my **ROCK**,  
in whom I find **PROTECTION**.  
He is my **SHEILD**,  
the **POWER** that saves me,  
and my place of **SAFETY**.*

*Psalm 18:2 NLT*

For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

**2 Corinthians 5:14-21**

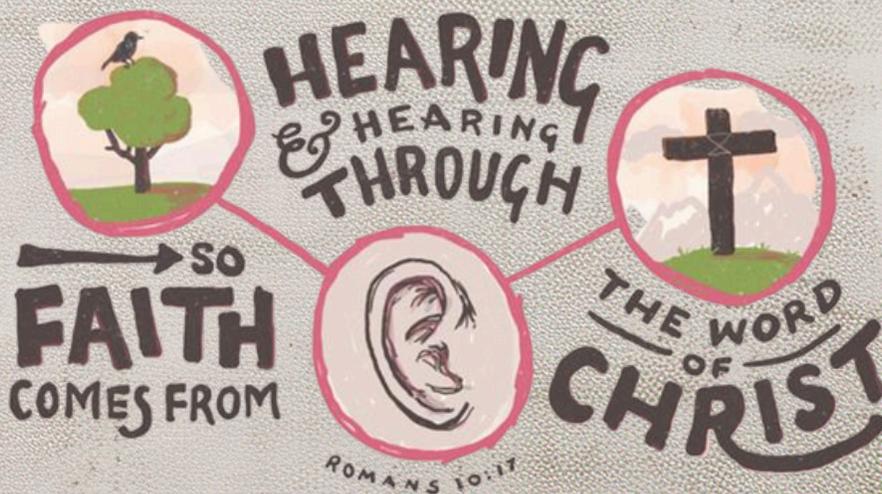
I was very reluctant to write this article. This quarter's theme, "**The Lord Of New Beginnings**" hit a nerve with me. At the end of December ( 2025 ) my Dr told me that I had 100% blockage in my right coronary artery and 2 others in the 70-80% range. He gave me my options and said that the best option at my age was bypass surgery. That shook me to the core and made me look back at the New Beginnings that God has blessed me with and the New Beginning that lies ahead. For reasons that God has not yet revealed He is giving me a New Beginning in this last season of life.

*How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!"*

*However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*

**Romans 10:14-17**

Hearing was my first new beginning. I did not hear the Word at home growing and with a little help from the public school system I was thoroughly convinced that we descended from apes. I was also an atheist. The idea that there was some "Supreme Being" that created the universe was completely absurd to me. But all that changed rather abruptly when I stopped by to see a girl I had a crush on before going to get drunk with my buddies. This young lady was quite wise and asked me several questions that I couldn't answer with my 18yrs of wisdom . " Where are you going to go after you die?" " Where did we come from?" "Where did the stars and planets come from?"



Then she handed me her bible to read the answers. I don't remember much about the bible other than .it had her name on it and she said it was " The Living Bible " and was easier to understand

*When God began creating the heavens and the earth, the earth was a shapeless, chaotic mass, with the Spirit of God brooding over the dark vapors.*

*Then God said, "Let there be light." And light appeared. And God was pleased with it and divided the light from the darkness. He called the light "daytime," and the darkness "nighttime." Together they formed the first day.*

*And God said, "Let the vapors separate to form the sky above and the oceans below." So God made the sky, dividing the vapor above from the water below. This all happened on the second day.*

*Then God said, "Let the water beneath the sky be gathered into oceans so that the dry land will emerge." And so it was. Then God named the dry land "earth," and the water "seas." And God was pleased. And he said, "Let the earth burst forth with every sort of grass and seed-bearing plant, and fruit trees with seeds inside the fruit, so that these seeds will produce the kinds of plants and fruits they came from." And so it was, and God was pleased. This all occurred on the third day.*

*Then God said, "Let bright lights appear in the sky to give light to the earth and to identify the day and the night; they shall bring about the seasons on the earth, and mark the days and years." And so it was. For God had made two huge lights, the sun and moon, to shine down upon the earth—the larger one, the sun, to preside over the day and the smaller one, the moon, to preside through the night; he had also made the stars. And God set them in the sky to light the earth, and to preside over the day and night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God was pleased. This all happened on the fourth day.*

## Science calls it the Big Bang

I call it Genesis 1:3

"GOD said let there be light..."

*Then God said, "Let the waters teem with fish and other life, and let the skies be filled with birds of every kind." So God created great sea animals, and every sort of fish and every kind of bird. And God looked at them with pleasure, and blessed them all. "Multiply and stock the oceans," he told them, and to the birds he said, "Let your numbers increase. Fill the earth!" That ended the fifth day. And God said, "Let the earth bring forth every kind of animal—cattle and reptiles and wildlife of every kind." And so it was. God made all sorts of wild animals and cattle and reptiles. And God was pleased with what he had done.*

*Then God said, "Let us make a man—someone like ourselves, to be the master of all life upon the earth and in the skies and in the seas."*

**BANG!!! IT HAPPENED**

As the words fell from my lips my New Beginning was complete. I knew at that moment, beyond a shadow of a doubt that there was a God and that he had created all things, so I bought a bible.

For the next two years I read my Bible off and on while I struggled to understand how what I was reading was so different from the world around me. Then once again with no warning came another New Beginning.

I had always longed to leave my hometown but never seemed to find my way out. Then I got a call that I had an auto-diesel scholarship to a college that I had never heard of in some small town in southwest Indiana. I jumped at the chance. To pass the time I began to seriously study my bible and came to the understanding that I was a sinner in need of a Saviour and needed to repent and be baptized. On November 21st 1985 the old man died and the greatest New Beginning of all began unfolding.

I don't know who you are. You might be a member of my church. You might be doing a bible study on 2 Corinthians and this article popped up. You might be a bored high school student playing on your phone in class and Googled "New Beginnings." It doesn't matter if I know you or you know me. What matters is that God knows you. He created you. He wants the very best for you, things better than anything this world has to offer. Maybe you received a New Beginning in Christ decades ago but over the years you and Jesus have drifted apart and your relationship is lukewarm. Don't give up on your relationship. Fan those sparks into the flame that once burned hot.

*'I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked, I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed; and eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.*

Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

**Revelation 3:14b-21**

**LUKEWARM PEOPLE  
DON'T REALLY WANT  
TO BE SAVED  
FROM THEIR SIN  
THEY WANT ONLY TO  
BE SAVED FROM THE  
PENALTY OF THEIR SIN.**



Or maybe you're a baby Christian and just recently received your New Beginning. You thought that things were going easier than they were before but things are choking the life out of you. You have an enemy and he will surround you with people and circumstances to try to choke you out. Be faithful. Be patient and let God sort out the things that don't belong in your life.

*Jesus presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went away. But when the wheat sprouted and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. The slaves of the landowner came and said to him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have tares?' And he said to them, 'An enemy has done this!' The slaves \*said to him, 'Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?' But he \*said, 'No; for while you are gathering up the tares, you may uproot the wheat with them. Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn."*

**Matthew 13:24-30**

Maybe you have been putting off that New Beginning. You know that you ought to, but your friends will make fun of you, or you don't want to give up X,Y or Z. You plan on it someday but right now you're too busy. I'm obligated to remind you that none of us are promised tomorrow. In the blink of an eye a blood clot can lodge in your heart or brain or a drunk driver crosses the centerline and your life on earth is over. As you draw your last breath you will face a New Beginning in eternity and that new New Beginning will be determined by the decision you made in the life you are leaving behind.

## **Satan's greatest lie: You have plenty of time to get right with God.**

### **The enemy says there's still time.**

But death doesn't send warnings, and tomorrow may never come. Countless souls entered eternity thinking they could wait just a little longer. Don't be deceived.

Every delay is a step closer to eternal loss. Choose Christ now, before the chance is gone forever.

*Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

### **The New Heaven and Earth**

*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He \*said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son. But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*

### **Revelation 20:11-21:8**

Are you ready for a New Beginning? Maybe you are already a Christian and feel led to preach or teach. James says. Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin. Or maybe you are ready to leave your old life behind and have a New Beginning as an adopted child of God. Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

If it's time for a New Beginning the leadership of Princeton Christian Church would like to hear from you.

*~Ron Smith*

## Opportunities To Connect With Us

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:30 AM

MORNING WORSHIP - 10:30 PM

SUNDAY PRAYER MEETING - 5:30 PM *A Special Time of Intercession to God on Others Behalf*

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP - 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY RECHARGE BIBLE STUDY - 6:00 PM

## MONTHLY EVENTS

•• FRIENDS & FAMILY ••

# SUNDAY

**Held Every First Sunday Of The Month**

We encourage everyone to invite their friends and family to join us in worship.

Excellent time for visitors.

**\*\*Fellowship Luncheon Each First Sunday of New Quarter**



**SOS**

Serving Our Savior  
Women's Ministry Group

*Meets Every First Tuesday Of The Month at 6 PM  
At Church Fellowship Area (Handicap Accessible)  
Meal and or Snacks Provided*



**WatchMen**  
Men's Ministry Group

*Meets Every Second Saturday Of The Month at 9 AM  
At Church Fellowship Area (Handicap Accessible)  
Physical and Spiritual Food Provided*



## ***The VINE***

This group is designed to empower youth, foster connections, and create a platform for your young faiths to grow. Our mission is to provide a space where you can engage in meaningful conversations, study God's Word to grow in understanding, participate in fun activities, and develop skills, and relationships that will shape our future leaders.

Whether you're interested in community service, growing your knowledge of God, arts, sports, or just making new Christian friends,

### **There Is a Place Here for You.**

We believe that every young person has unique talents and perspectives to offer, and we are committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment where everyone feels valued. Together, we will work on exciting projects, organize events, and create initiatives that reflect our interests and address issues important to us. Join us as we embark on this journey of growth, friendship, and making a positive impact in our community.

We can't wait to see what we will accomplish together!



PRINCETON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

LOVING GOD - LOVING OTHERS - LOVING YOU

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our mission



Engage with the lost  
Establish in the faith  
Equip to serve  
Empower to go



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