**Colossians 1:15–23 (HCSB)**

**1. Jesus’ relationship to His creation (15-17)**

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

*16****For*** *everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities— all things have been created through Him and for Him.*

 *17He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together.*

**2. Jesus’ relationship to His church (18-21)**

*18He is also the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything.*

*19For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him*

*20and through Him to reconcile everything to Himself by making peace through the blood of His cross — whether things on earth or things in heaven.*

**3. Jesus’ relationship to His children (21-23)**

 *21Once you were alienated and hostile in your minds because of your evil actions.*

 22But now He has reconciled you by His physical body through His death, to present you holy, faultless, and blameless before Him —

 23if indeed you remain grounded and steadfast in the faith and are not shifted away from the hope of the gospel that you heard. This gospel has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and I, Paul, have become a servant of it.