***The Bible Advocate*, 22 February 1967, page 22**

**lVhat is your understanding of Colossians l:15- 17, Proverbs 8:22-30 and Revelation B:14? Do these teach that Jesus is a created being and hence at one t:me did not exist? If so, how do you explain John 1:l?**

Ealliel in the letter which contained th:se qurstions tire u'riter asked, "What is the official position cf the Church oir this point?" The doctrinal statement of the Clurch on the "Ple-existence of Christ,, is sir.np11'stated. thus: "Jesus Christ, the Son of God, u'as in the plan of salvation before the foundation of tl-re s-orid. He rvas the Word spoken of in John 1:1,2, and His birth of the virgin Mary was in fulfillment of. 'And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.' "

Colossians 1:15 states that Jesus is ".. . the firstborn of evet.y creature." Moffatt says, "born first, befcre all the creatlon." This establishes that Jesus existed previous to Creation. Whether we say He was born ol created, the point is that He was or existed before the creation of the world (the heaven and t1.re earth of Genesis 1:1). Philippians 2:6 refers to Him as being (ol existing) in the form (the Greek word here indicating shape or nature) of God. Col:ssians 1:16, 17 piainly states that He had part in the creation of ail things (Himself and the Father excepted. of course), and that He "is before all things."

Prover.bs 8:22-30 speaks of wisdom (personifled), nothing more. At least this is the writer's pe rsonal opinion. It does not teach that Jesus was, or was not li,ith the Father at that time.

Jesus is referred to in Revelation 3:14 as,,the beginning of the creation of God." It seems apparent that there was a time when He did not exist. If He u,as t}:e "firstborn"-"born flrst"-and the Scripture so states-it indicates .there was a time when He was not. But this is not a contradiction of John 1:1. Colossians 1:17 says He "is before ALL THINGS." A1l we knorv is that He preceded THINGS of CREATION, and, in fact, He CREATED THINGS. He was in the beginning (before the world was) with God. Note His own words in John 77:5: "...glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee BEFORE THE WORLD WAS.''

We must all admit that there are some things which we cannot fully comprehend in this life. We see through a glass darkiy, as said Paul. Many things we must accept on faith, and wait fol the day when God shall n'rake al1 things plain to us.