

WHO IS THIS KING?

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Key idea:

Christ is the all-sufficient Savior, Lord and King to all his people. He is a King who has done wondrous things for us, and as a result we ought to give him our allegiance, obedience and love.

Key text:

Colossians 1:9-23 (ESV)

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you[e] to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

Key points:

1. Christ bears the fullness of God, was active in creation and is the one who holds everything together.
2. Christ came to reconcile all things to himself, and to give his people redemption from and forgiveness of sin. Both of these works were accomplished at the cross.
3. Christ's kingdom has come to us that we might be presented faultless before God, and that we might become more pleasing in God's sight through being conformed into the image of his son.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to you? Why?
2. What does it mean when Paul says in Colossians 1:15 that Christ "is the image of the invisible God" and the firstborn of creation?
3. What does Paul mean when he says that Christ has reconciled all things to himself through the cross?
4. What comes to mind when we think about Christ presenting us holy and blameless, above reproach before God?
5. What does it mean, in this passage, to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord? Is this something that we can achieve on our own?
6. What does it mean when Paul says in Colossians 1:21 "if we continue in the faith?" Is this a warning, an admonishment, or an encouragement? How can we know, and what should we do about this?
7. In what ways am I keeping Christ at the center of the faith? In what ways might I not be keeping Christ at the center?
8. Who will I call or see to encourage this week? Who can I encourage to worship this King this coming Sunday?