

## Who is this King?

TP: Christ is the all-sufficient Savior, Lord and King to all his people.

HP: Christ's pre-eminence and magnificence demands our allegiance, love and obedience.

IMAGE:

NEED: We have been learning the last several months about what the church is, and what unity in the body looks like. Those are all important, formative things, but more important still is recognizing exactly who this King is, and what kind of kingdom he operates.

Subject:

Preview: This text is rich, and one could teach a great many sermons out of this passage and still not have found the bottom of its depth. But for today, we want to answer three major questions from this text: Who is this king? What has he done for us? Why has he done it?

Text: Colossians 1:9-23 – ESV

We are delivered into the kingdom of the Son, but who is this King?

- I. Who is this King?
  - a. Christ is the image of the invisible God, carrying the exact likeness and nature of the Father in order that we may see, know and understand him for who he is. (v. 15)
    - i. He is the Word, being the expression of an idea or a thought (the Father, who no man can see and live)
    - ii. "If you have seen me, You have seen the Father."
    - iii. "I and my Father are one."
  - b. He is the pre-eminent of all creation (v.15)
    - i. Most versions use the term "first-born" here, which is often used to attack the deity of Christ.
    - ii. Ironically, that is the one of the things Paul is warning the Colossians *against* in this letter (2:9).
    - iii. The term first-born in Scripture, when used abstractly as in this instance and in 1:18, refers to a position of honor or pre-eminence, rather than being birthed or created.
  - c. He is the creator! (v.16)

- i. All things were created THROUGH him
  - ii. All things were also created FOR him
- d. He is the one by whom all things are sustained. (v.17)
  - i. Heb. 1:3 (upholds all things by the word of his power)
  - ii. If he not only created, but sustains, then he must be pre-eminent in all things simply by default.
  - iii. This is why the forces of darkness work so hard to undermine both the creation narrative and the deity of Christ, because if those are both true, one MUST admit that he is pre-eminent.
- e. Christ is the head of the church, and the firstborn of the dead.
  - i. He was the first to be raised to life, never to die again
    - 1. We too will be changed like this one day
  - ii. I won't belabor the head of the church, as Bret has illustrated that clearly over the last several weeks, but I will remind that we are his body, and he is the head.

## II. What has he done?

- a. He has reconciled all things to himself through the cross
  - i. Things in heaven and on earth were reconciled – ALL things
    - 1. This probably means all things are now subjected to him, rather than salvation has come to all (that would be universalism!)
  - ii. Through both the body (v.22) and the blood (v.20).
- b. He has given us redemption and the forgiveness of sins
  - i. This is THROUGH/IN him ALONE! (v.14)
  - ii. We have not only had our sins forgiven, but we've also been redeemed from our bondage to sin and death.
    - 1. The Boy Who Lost His Boat (a small pamphlet written 20 years ago)
    - 2. This is what Christ has done for us. He made us, and then he bought us. Those who are born again are twice born, and thus twice Christ's: made, then bought.

- c. He has been given a kingdom over God's people, to rule and reign forever
  - i. Normally encountering a king is a fearful thing for citizens, but we can see that we have a benevolent ruler, simply because of ... (bridge to question 3)
- III. Why has he done it?
  - a. To present the church as holy and blameless, above reproach before God
    - i. Remember, no man can see God and live because he is impure
    - ii. But in Christ we are a new creation – we can stand before God in Christ's righteousness, thanks to his finished work
    - iii. if we continue in the faith...is a reminder to examine ourselves, but also an encouragement to cling to the hope of the Gospel that we were given
  - b. So that (through the Holy Spirit), we might walk in a manner worthy of the Lord
    - i. Bear fruit in good works
    - ii. Increase in the knowledge of God
    - iii. Be strengthened in his power for endurance, with patience and joy
    - iv. Give thanks to the Father

#### APPLYING THE WORD

- I. Is Christ my King?
  - a. If not, PLEASE talk to one of the elders after the meeting or shoot us a message on Social media or through email. We would LOVE to talk with you more about what it means to be in the Kingdom of God.
- II. If Christ is my King, do I fully grasp the implications of who he is?
  - a. Romanian villager's wife example.
- III. If Christ is this type of King, how should I respond?
  - a. We have been transferred from the domain of darkness to the kingdom of the Son, this Christ, this benevolent, loving King. How ought we respond to that?
  - b. "Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."
  - c. Re-touch on 1:10-11

- IV. As the church (local, and universal), are we keeping Christ the center? Or are there things that we are allowing to crowd out his centrality?
- a. Race
  - b. Politics
  - c. Sexuality/Gender Identity and Roles
  - d. Money
  - e. Power
  - f. Fame
  - g. Etc.
  - h. All of those things are subject to Christ the King.