

Jesus Rules

Colossians 1:15-19

"The breathtaking significance of the death of Jesus Christ accounts for why he is the new beginning and in his resurrection he is the firstborn from the dead (1:18). It is why the body of which he is now the head is not yet the totality of all things, but the assembly of those who have now been reconciled to him – no matter how small and insignificant such an assembly might for now appear to be. The assembly that had gathered that day in Philemon's house was that assembly in that place – the assembly of which HE is the head. The same is true of each assembly of Christian believers today. It is something of extraordinary importance, no matter how unimpressive it might seem. The assembly of believers in any place is the body of which this Lord Jesus Christ is the head."
Woodhouse

- I. These verses (Col. 1:15-20) about the Supremacy of Christ fall within the context of Paul's prayer for the church at Colossae. They are meant to instill in our hearts the astonishing significance of our faith in Christ Jesus so that we may know, on an ever increasing level, the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. The deeper our grasp of his supremacy determines in many ways the level of our willingness to submit to his Lordship by living life his way.

Phil. 3:7-11

Phil. 3:8 *What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.*

- II. As God the Son, Jesus planned creation, initiated creation and produced creation for his own joy and pleasure. Sin brought disharmony to his creation, but Jesus still rules supreme as Lord and Master of all things. All that he has created will eventually submit to him as Lord, whether here on earth upon salvation, or at the great white throne judgment of all who refused to trust in him as their Lord and Savior.

Col. 1:15-17; Heb 1:3; John 1:18; Rom 8:29; John 14:8-10; Ps 33:6; Heb 1:3; Zeph 1:2-3,18

Phil 2:9-11 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- III. God, fully dwelling in his Son with all his power and attributes, created the church to bring harmony to the alienation that sin caused between himself and man. He initiated reconciliation by making peace through his blood shed on the cross, so that all who have been reconciled through faith might glorify him in increasing measure by submitting to his headship as Lord and Master of his body, the church.

Col, 1:18-20

ekklēsia = (church) the whole body of Christians scattered throughout the earth

Ephesians 4:15-16 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.