

To Whom Shall We Go?
“Christ-The Believer’s Victory”

Introduction: Final part of this brief series

- ✓ Backdrop of hard teaching by Jesus, His inquiry, and Peter’s response-to Whom shall we go?
- ✓ What you believe about Jesus really matters
- ✓ Yet (today) “we have a Jesus Deficit Disorder” (Leonard Sweet)
- ✓ Question of Jesus (Caesarea Philippi-who do you say that I Am?)
- ✓ Colossians 1:15:20-Answers that!

Believer’s Example

- ✓ Image of the Invisible God (revealing divine reality, heaven, destiny)
- ✓ Firstborn over all creation (accepted His responsibility to redeem)

Believer’s Assurance

By Him all things were created. He is before all things, and in Him, all things consist.

Today: The Believers’ Victory

I. He is the Head of the Body

NOTE: Up to this point, Paul has set forth the direction of Christ in terms which he shares with other New Testament writers-here he makes a contribution to Christian theology that is distinctively his.

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, Colossians 1:18 NKJV

- A. How do we understand the church as the body and Christ as the head?
 1. First reference (chronologically) is 1 Corinthians 12:25-27

That there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually. 1 Corinthians 12:25-27 NKJV

- a. Fellow members of the body

- b. Mutual duties and common interests that must not be neglected
2. Year or two later

For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Romans 12:4-5 NKJV

- a. Variety of services rendered by diverse members
- b. All in accordance with differing abilities
- c. All used to build up the community

IMPORTANT: *In earlier letters where body and its parts are mentioned, Christ is not said to be the head of the body.*

And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 1 Corinthians 12:21NKJV

(One among many members is the head)

But here had (also in Ephesians) Christ as the head bearing a unique relation to the church as the bride.

B. How should we understand “head?”

- 1. **Source** (origin)

But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God. 1 Corinthians 11:3 NKJV

- 2. **Certainly source of life (as head of the body) but also head as Lord.**

NOTE: *Organically,, Christ and His people are viewed together as a living entity. Christ the head, supplies life and exercising control and direction-life that animates the whole is the Risen Christ-the Head!*

- 3. **Hebrew was a thinking-corporate personality**

- a. Our existence “in Christ”
- b. Germ of this conception seen in Christ’s words to Paula in Damascus

Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" Acts 9:4 NKJV

- 4. This is used when Paul wants to bring out certain aspects-other times/other terminology
 - a. Bride

- b. Building
5. Church as the body/Christ as the head
- a. Vitalized by His abiding presence-certainly
 - b. Energized by His power-yes
 - c. Instrument by which He carries out His work
 - d. Primarily-head (identify with His death, burial, resurrection, seated in heavenly places)

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Galatians 3:27 NKJV

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. 3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. 4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. 5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples. John 15:1-8 NKJV

II. In Him all the Fullness Dwells

A. Colossian heresy-pre-cursor to gnosticism

- ✓ Fullness was the totality of divine entities or emanations
- ✓ These were intermediate powers between the superior God and humanity-any communication had to pass through these intermediaries
- ✓ Paul destroys this with one stroke-all the fullness in Christ

B. Important Implications

1. No other message but the crucified and risen Christ should occupy the church
2. No other response to the world's need should be offered

III. He is the Ultimate Victor

And by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. Colossians 1:20 NKJV

- A. If all things were made by Him (v. 16) and yet all things need reconciled, it follows that all things have been estranged from their creator

For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body. Romans 8:19-23 NKJV

1. Creation subjected to futility unwilling by (Adam's sin/curse)
 2. Destined to one day be set free
 3. This conflict of creation with the Creator must be replaced by peace
 4. This peace made by Christ through His blood
- B. This reconciliation of all things does not imply demons, principalities, and rebellion, humanity will ultimately be saved (universalism)
- C. The peace affected by Christ at Calvary can be finally accepted or rejected
- D. Principalities do not gladly surrender but will submit to a power they are unable to resist—"every knee will bow..."

Conclusion:

Sermon Spice: "That's My King"

SEE KYLE