

Study Guide Notes

Scripture: Colossians 1:9-18

Message: He's Lord Over That, Too?
(The Supremacy and Preeminence of Christ)

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Big Idea

Christ is supreme and preeminent in everything. Therefore, His Lordship must shape how we see, love, and live with people.

Background

Paul wrote to the church at Colossae while imprisoned. The church was being challenged by false teaching, spiritual-sounding philosophies, and religious add-ons that threatened to pull believers away from the sufficiency of Christ.

Paul's answer was not, "Let me give you something extra." His answer was, "Let me remind you who Christ is."

Foundation: What God Has Already Done

Colossians 1:9-14 — Paul prays believers would be strengthened for **endurance and patience with joy** (v. 11), then reminds them what God has done.

- God has already: qualified us (v. 12), delivered us (v. 13), transferred us into the kingdom of His Son (v. 13), redeemed us (v. 14), and forgiven us (v. 14).

Key Truth: We obey from salvation, not for salvation.

1. The Reality: Christ Is Lord

Colossians 1:15-18 - Paul presents Christ as supreme over creation, the church, and all things.

- Christ is: the image of the invisible God (v. 15); firstborn of all creation - highest in rank and preeminence, not created (v. 15); Creator of all things (v. 16); before all things (v. 17); Sustainer of all things (v. 17); Head of the church (v. 18); preeminent in everything (v. 18).

Supporting Scriptures: Genesis 48:13-20; Jeremiah 31:9; Psalm 89:27; Philippians 2:9-11

Key Truth: Jesus does not become Lord when we acknowledge Him. He is Lord whether acknowledged or not.

"He is not created. He is Creator."

2. The Response: Our Surrender

As Christ followers, we have acknowledged His Lordship, trusted Him, and surrendered to Him.

Scripture Support: Romans 10:9 - confess Jesus as Lord; Luke 6:46 - His words carry authority; Galatians 2:20 - crucified with Christ; 2 Corinthians 5:15 - no longer living for ourselves; Mark 8:34 - deny yourself and take up your cross; Luke 14:28 - count the cost.

Key Truth: If He is Lord, His words carry authority.

"It will cost you your right to be your own lord."

"The Jesus who saves us is the same Jesus who rules us."

3. The Reach: Lordship Reaches Our Relationships

If Christ is Lord over us, His Lordship must reach how we see and treat people.

Key Truth: If Christ is Lord over me, He is Lord over how I see you.

"Christ has authority over my perspective."

"Even when wisdom requires boundaries, Lordship still requires love — do you love enough to risk your comfort?"

How Does Christ See People?

1. Christ sees people as image-bearers.

Genesis 1:26-27; Colossians 1:16 — Every person has value because they are made in the image of God and were created through Christ and for Christ.

"Before people are useful to me, they are valuable to God."

"I do not get to reduce people to what they are to me."

2. Christ sees people with compassion.

Matthew 9:36 — Jesus had compassion because the crowds were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Christ sees more than behavior. He sees the soul, the wound, the need, and what grace can restore.

3. Christ sees people through the lens of redemption.

2 Peter 3:9; 1 Timothy 2:4 — God does not desire that any should perish, but that people would repent, be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth.

We are called to see souls - people who need Christ and people Christ died to redeem.

"I am not just protecting my comfort. I am carrying Christ's heart."

Heart Check

- Do I see people as assignments or annoyances?
- Do I see people as souls or obstacles?
- Do I see people as image-bearers or interruptions?
- Do I see people through Christ's purpose or through my preferences?
- Who have I reduced to how they affect me?
- Where has my comfort been more preeminent than Christ?

Key Truth: Our relationships reveal what has preeminence in us.

"God isn't going to change His mind about wanting you to change. — Jackie Hill-Perry"

"If Christ is Lord, He is Lord over how I love and live with people."

The Reliance: We Need the Holy Spirit

We cannot see, serve, or love people rightly in our own flesh. Colossians 1:11 reminds us that God strengthens His people with His power for endurance and patience with joy.

- Pray: Lord, help me see people the way You see them.
- Pray: Holy Spirit, help me love beyond my comfort.
- Pray: Holy Spirit, make Christ preeminent in my relationships.

Closing Reminder

Colossians 1:12-14 — We do not strive to become His people. We live as those who are **already** His people.

Let all the other names fade away - my pride, comfort, preferences, offense, and need to be right - until there is only Jesus.