**THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST**

Colossians 1:15-23 (key verse 18)

“*And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy*.”

In last week passage we learnt from Paul’s prayer who encouraged the Colossian believers to grow in the knowledge of God’s will through obedience so that we may bear fruit. In today’s passage Paul goes further and reveals to us the identity of Jesus Christ, from the key we learn that Jesus is supreme, meaning he is all sufficient worthy for us to worship and obey, all sufficient for us to live a happy life and bear fruit.

As we approach the December holidays some of us might be excited that we will finally go home, take the much needed rest after a long year of hardship. Some might be filled with anxieties and worries about the outcomes of the exams, some might be worried that they will meet their high school friends who are doing well, some might be worried that they will be among their not so perfect family members. Because of these anxieties, fears and worries, one may wonder on what to do, how can we be happy during the December holidays? The answer is Jesus Christ who is supreme.

Therefore, through today’s passage we will learn what makes Jesus supreme and what it means that he is supreme. We will also learn what should be our attitude in response to the supremacy of Jesus Christ.

I prat that God may have mercy on us today, to receive one word so that the supremacy of Jesus Christ may be planted in our hearts and live a life filled with joy and purpose.

The passage today begins with Apostle Paul describing Jesus as the image of the invisible God in **verse 15** saying: “***15****The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.”*What does this mean? Here apostle Paul revealed first that Jesus was a reflection in a mirror of God, Jesus was likened to God. Furthermore, Paul described Jesus as the image of the invisible God to emphasize that God is fully revealed in Jesus Christ. So, for us to truly know God we must come to Jesus. In **John 14:6** it says: “***6****Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the father except through me.”* Only through Christ Jesus we can have fellowship with God and worship him.

Apostle Paul further described Jesus as the firstborn over all creation. This means before everything in this world was created as we learnt in Genesis, the mountains, the sky, the seas, Jesus Christ was there. This is so because Jesus is not like you and me, he is not like the other creatures of the world, he is the eternal God.

Apostle Paul went further to describe what relationship we have as creation with Jesus Christ who is in the very nature God, who was, before creation. Let us look at **verse 16-17**: “***16****For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.****17****He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”* Here we can learn that nothing exists by chance. All things were created in Christ, through Christ and for Christ. All things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible originated from Christ. If we try to explain the things that exist without Christ, we are left with only a formless, empty void. It is in Christ where we can discover who we are, because he is the creator of all things. If we want to know where we need to go, we need to come to Christ to lead us and guide us for he is the one who knows where we need to go. It says all things were created through him and for him. Without Christ we cannot know who we are, where we are going, our purpose, but in Christ we can find our purpose. All things can only find purpose in Christ Jesus even the rulers or authorities we see in our world today.

The Pharisees were called by God as spiritual leaders for the people, but because they did not know Christ and rejected him, they could not live according to their purpose, instead they became hindrance to bringing people to God, they could not live their purpose, they could not have a sense of identity and they just wondered around and their hearts were corrupted. In the same way, if we do not seek Christ and accept that we were created through him and for him, we will be lost. Instead of living for him, we will live for the world, which will torment and fill us with anxieties, fear and worries.

Furthermore, Apostle Paul said Christ is before all things and in him all things hold together. What does this mean? This means Christ Jesus holds everything together and sustains all thing by his word. This means we are not AI generated creatures, but rather Christ Jesus was involved in each and every step of our creation, he knows every piece of our body parts, the hairs we have on our body. Furthermore, Christ was not just involved in our creation and then let us go, but rather he continues to sustain us, even today. Many people today, worry so much about what they will eat, they are filled with anxieties and are tormented by the realities of the economy, exam results, but if you ask them if they ever spent a night without a meal, a bed to rest your head? The answer is no, this is because Jesus sustains us, however we torment ourselves with worries. This is sinful, we need to repent and live by faith and know that Christ Jesus is before all things and in him all things hold together.

Apostle Paul went further in his letter to describe Christ Jesus relationship with the church. Let us look at **verse 18-19:***“****18****And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.****19****For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,”* Here the church does not refer to a building or organisation, it is not confined to a specific congregation but rather it refers to the universal church which is believers who confess Jesus as Lord. Apostle Paul described Christ as the head of the church. Firstly, as we know naturally the body and the head are inseparable, so this analogy teaches us what relationship we should have with Jesus Christ in order to live according to our purpose. If the body and the head function independently, there will be disaster. So, we need to have a relationship with Jesus Christ as believers. What kind of relationship should we have? Just as the head governs the body, and all directions are originated from the head, we too must be governed by Jesus Christ, all directions of our movement must come from him.

We must have a relationship with Jesus Christ, the purpose of church is mainly to have relationship with Jesus Christ, it is not a social gathering, it is not a place to help the needy, even though the church can do so and it is encouraged. The goal of church should be to have fellowship with Jesus Christ, to worship Christ Jesus, to find direction and guidance from Christ Jesus, to help others have fellowship with Jesus Christ, reveal Jesus Christ to one another through our life and relationship with him. The church’s mission is to reveal Christ and obey his will.

Furthermore, Apostle Paul explained in what ways Christ Jesus is the head church saying: “*he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy*” What does this mean? Here we learn that Jesus Christ is the head of the church, with power and authority, whom we need to obey and follow his direction because he is supreme. On what basis is Jesus Supreme? It is based on his resurrection from the dead. There have been other people who rose from the dead, but Jesus’ resurrection is different. Jesus is the first one to be raised in eternal victory over death, he conquered death and cannot die again. This is what makes Jesus supreme and qualified as the head of the church. Jesus was not just supreme then, but he is supreme today and forever, for he lives, he conquered the power of sin and death for us too.

Furthermore, Apostle Paul explained that Jesus is the head of the church because he is all sufficient. In **verse 19** it says: “*For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him.*” In Jesus, the fullness of God dwelled. This means that Jesus is the final, perfect and complete revelation of God, early we spoke about Jesus being the image of the invisible God. Jesus lacked nothing. During the times of the Colossian believers, there were some false teachings that Jesus is insufficient and that something more is needed. But here Paul is teaching that Jesus is all we need, he is sufficient for our salvation, spiritual growth and for everything we need. Jesus posses all of God’s attributes, such as wisdom, love, holiness, power, compassion, righteousness, justice, glory and basically all we need. In Jesus we can be fully satisfied. Today many people though they believe in Jesus, their behaviour suggest he is not sufficient, some rely on their own strength to experience life to its full, do something extra in their career, in their academics, they do not bring all matters of their life to Jesus, they have two lives, spiritual life and personal life. This is not the way, Jesus is all sufficient, he is supreme, all things have been created in him and for him. In Jesus we can truly be happy. When we feel something is missing, we should go to Jesus, we should accept that in him there is everything we need. In **John 4:13-14** Jesus said: “*Whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life”*

Though Jesus has provided for me and my family, somehow, I lately I have been worried about my family, I worried about my role as a father and husband. This past week I have spent so many hours at work and worried, about balancing my work and spending time with my family and ministry. I worried about what to do, but through this passage I am learning that I need to come to Jesus, for he is supreme, all sufficient, all thing were are created through him and for him, so he knows, it might not make sense how I can manage all this things, but Jesus is supreme, and all sufficient and he knows.

In light of Jesus Christ’s supremacy, Apostle Paul went further to explain what God has done through him. Let us look at **verse 20-22**: “***20****and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.* ***21****Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.****22****But now he has reconciled you by Christ’s physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—*Through Christ Jesus, God has reconciled all creation to himself. When God created the heavens and the earth there was perfect order and harmony in the relationships between God and human beings, among human beings, and between human beings and creation. It was perfect paradise. Human beings could enjoy endless joy, prosperity, blessings and freedom. But when man disobeyed God’s command the harmony and order were broken. All peace and joy and happiness fled. Since sin entered man’s heart, it broke all the relationships between God and human beings, among human beings, and between human beings and creation.

Because of sin human beings became God’s enemy and the object of his wrath. Because of sin human beings do not understand each other and do not love one another. Instead, they envy each other and hate each other and fight each other. They hurt each other and get revenge. In order to fix all these broken relationships and the broken world, one thing was needed: blood, which means life-sacrifice. God sent his one and only Son Jesus Christ to this world. Jesus gave his life, shedding his blood on the cross. It was not just ordinary blood, but the blood of the sinless Son of God. This blood has the power to fix all the broken relationships and the broken world. This is the power of the blood. Only the power of Jesus’ blood can bring true peace between God and human beings and all creation. This power is working in our world today, because of the blood great enemies have forgiven each other. This very blood will ultimately reconcile all things, in heaven and on earth.

After Apostle Paul had shared about the supremacy of Jesus Christ, what God has done through him, he went further to encourage and extort us so that we can take hold of the blessings that come with the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Let us look at **verse 23**: “***23****if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.”* In order remain in the blessing of God through the supremacy of Jesus, reconciled with God, we need to remain in our faith, not move from the hope held out in the gospel. We need to hold firm on the gospel, which is full dependence on the blood of Jesus Christ which cleanses us, takes away our sins. We need to surrender to Jesus Christ as our ruler, all fulness of God is in Jesus Christ.

I pray that during this December holidays we may not lose sight of Jesus Christ, but remember that he is supreme, the fulness of God dwells in him, he is all sufficient to meat all our needs. I pray that we may remember that he is the head and we are the body, have a relationship with him, mediate on his word and allow him to lead, guide and direct us. Because of his blood we were saved from the power of sin and death, we have been reconciled with God so that we can live a life filled with joy, happiness, purpose and full satisfaction. For me this December I will be working, there will be quite a lot of push for us to make progress, but I pray that I may not be consumed by my work project, but remember that Jesus is the head, he is supreme. I pray that I may fully depend on him and not consider the project as my source of Joy, but Jesus Christ who is supreme.