

5. JESUS CHRIST IS YOUR KING

COMMENTS ON THE LESSON

This lesson is designed to show that Jesus is now reigning as King and that God wants all people to recognize this.

AN EXPLANATION OF TERMS

CHURCH: an assembly of people that meet in a certain place to remember Jesus and to worship God. A second meaning is the whole number of Christ's people everywhere.

COLOSSIANS: a letter in the New Testament that was written by the apostle Paul to the church at Colosse, a city in Asia Minor.

CO-REGENT: a second ruler, who rules side-by-side with a king.

CRUCIFY: to put a person to death by hanging him on a wooden cross.

EMMAUS: a village not far from Jerusalem.

GALILEE: a sea in the northern part of the land of

Palestine. It can also mean the land area around the Sea of Galilee.

HIGH PRIEST: the chief priest of the Jews. It can also refer to Jesus Christ.

HOLY BIBLE: the book that contains the Old Testament (which tells the story of the Jewish people) and the New Testament (which contains the story of Jesus and the spread of the church).

PHILIPPIANS: a letter in the New Testament that the apostle Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, a city in northern Greece.

JESUS CHRIST IS YOUR KING

Early in the morning of the third day after Jesus was crucified, some of Jesus' followers came to the tomb where His body had been placed (Matthew 28:1), but they did not find His body. An angel told them that Jesus had arisen from the dead (Matthew 28:5-7).

JESUS APPEARED TO MANY

Over a period of forty days, Jesus made a number of appearances to His disciples. The reports of His appearances are not due to hallucination on the part of His disciples, for He truly died and truly arose from the dead.

Jesus appeared first to several women (Matthew 28:9 and Mark 16:9). Afterwards He appeared to two men on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). He also appeared to Simon Peter (Luke 24:34). On the evening of the day of His resurrection, He appeared to ten of His disciples who were gathered in a room in Jerusalem (John 20:19). He showed them the wounds where nails had pierced His hands and feet at the crucifixion (Luke 24:40). They clearly recognized that it was Jesus.

A week later, Jesus again appeared to eleven of His disciples in a house in Jerusalem (John 20:26). Some time later, He appeared to His disciples, who had gone to Galilee (John 21:1). On another occasion, 500 brethren saw Him at one time (1 Corinthians 15:6). He also appeared to James and the apostles (1 Corinthians 15:7). Last of all, He was seen by Saul of Tarsus, who, after his conversion, became the apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 15:8).

JESUS ASCENDED TO HEAVEN

Forty days after His resurrection from the dead, Jesus was taken up into heaven. A number of His followers witnessed His ascension into heaven (Luke 24:50-51). In heaven, He sat down at the right hand of God to become co-regent with God, His Father (Acts 2:33-36). Before He ascended to heaven, Jesus revealed that all power had been given to Him both in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18). That made Him King.

JESUS IS REIGNING AS KING

Jesus has been carrying out His royal duties ever since He ascended to heaven. People on earth do not always notice His work, however, because it must be seen with the eye of faith. Some people do not have faith and are, consequently, not submissive to their King (Hebrews 2:8). Yet He continues to reign in spite of their insubordination to Him. Some people are violently opposed to His reign, but still He reigns, as King David said, in the midst of His enemies (Psalm 110:2). He will continue to reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet (Psalm 110:1 and Acts 2:32-35). The last enemy that He will conquer will be death (1 Corinthians 15:26). Following that, He will return the kingdom to His Father (1 Corinthians 15:28).

A SPIRITUAL KINGDOM

Jesus' kingdom is a spiritual kingdom. No one can say, "It is here" or "It is there" (Luke 17:20-21), for Jesus reigns in the hearts and lives of men and women. His kingdom is not restricted to any one nation, race, or tribe (Isaiah 55:4-5).

Jesus' kingdom is not of this world. If His kingdom were of this world, His disciples would have fought to keep Him from having been captured and put to death (John 18:36). It is a blessing that His kingdom is not of this world, for this earth is going to pass away (2 Peter 3:10-11). His kingdom, however, will never pass away, for it is an eternal kingdom (Isaiah 9:6-7).

JESUS CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

Jesus is both the King in His kingdom and the Head of His church. See Ephesians 1:20-23 and Colossians 1:18. Christ's kingdom on earth is the same as Christ's church. See Matthew 16:18-19.

It is appropriate for Jesus to be the Head of the church since He founded it and is the owner of it. He said,

"I will build My church."

Matthew 16:18

The church, then, belongs to Christ and He is actively guiding it. He has not abdicated His position as Head of the church, nor has He appointed anyone to be His substitute on earth.

There is no need for a human head over the church. The church is a spiritual institution and it has,

appropriately, a spiritual head. Therefore, no man, or group of men, should presume to make laws for Christ's church. Since the church is governed from heaven, it has no headquarters on earth.

Even though Jesus Christ sits at the right hand of God in heaven, He is also present in spirit with His people. He promised that where two or three of them are gathered together in His name, He would be there with them (Matthew 18:20). He has also promised that when anyone goes out to preach the good news, He would go with them (Matthew 28:19-20).

WHAT DOES CHRIST DO FOR THE CHURCH?

Jesus is present not only as an observer, but also as a participant in the affairs of the church. As Head of the church, Jesus does many things (Ephesians 1:18-19). Here are some of the things He does:

1. Jesus establishes the hearts of His people and keeps His people from evil (1 Thessalonians 3:13).

2. Jesus directs the hearts of His people to the love of God (2 Thessalonians 3:5)

3. Jesus enables His people to wait patiently for His return (2 Thessalonians 3:5)

4. Jesus provides spiritual nourishment for His body, the church (Colossians 2:18-19). It is from the Head that the church receives its nourishment. The nourishment that

it receives is the teaching that Christ gave when He was on earth (John 6:63).

5. Jesus helps the church to grow (Ephesians 4:16) more like Himself (Ephesians 4:15).

6. Jesus holds the church together (Colossians 2:18-19). As long as the members of the church hold to the Him, they are united, but when they stray from Him and hold to human leaders, they become disunited.

JESUS IS ALSO HIGH PRIEST

There are various aspects to Jesus' authority. He is not only King over the kingdom and Head of the church but He is also a High Priest (Hebrews 4:14). Since He lived on earth in human form, He is a High Priest, who is able to sympathize with His people (Hebrews 4:15). The temptations and sufferings, which he endured on earth enable Him to feel for His people's infirmities. As Priest, He intercedes with God on behalf of His people on earth (Hebrews 7:25). He is thus a mediator between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5).

JESUS IS STILL RECRUITING PEOPLE

Jesus promised that if He were lifted up (on the cross), He would draw all people to Himself (John 12:32). Truly, ever since He was nailed to the cross for the sins of others, He has been drawing men and women to Himself. He is

still attracting them today because everyone can find help and forgiveness in Him.

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world” (John 8:12). Even after having shone over the past 20 centuries, He still shines brightly today. He shines in music, He shines in poetry, He shines in art, and He shines in the good deeds that men and women do who live under His influence. Life, beauty, and joy have followed the spread of the knowledge of Jesus Christ in the entire world.

In addition, Jesus Christ causes people to live in peace with each other. He teaches them the value of honest work, and this results in their prosperity. He trains decent people to preside equitably over governments, and thus He brings justice and order to society,

Christ is still searching for men and women who will respond to His call. When He finds one, He lays hold on that person (Philippians 3:12), and God puts him or her into Christ’s kingdom (Colossians 1:13). Then Christ sends that person out to teach the good news of the kingdom to others (2 Timothy 2:2). Each of them tries to do as much good as he or she can (Galatians 6:9-10) and to be an “ambassador for Christ,” encouraging others to be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:20).

LET US NOT BE ASHAMED OF THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST

Jesus said that if we will confess Him before men, He will confess us before His Father, who is in heaven (Matthew 10:32). When we confess our faith in Jesus Christ we honor Him, and when we honor Him we also

honor His Father who sent Him (John 5:22-23). Jesus said that if we deny Him before men, He will deny us before His Father who is in heaven (Matthew 10:33).

If we confess that we believe that Jesus is God's Son, and if we obey what Jesus taught, God will live in us and we will live in God (1 John 4:15).

WORKSHEETS

After you have read this lesson and have looked up all the references in the Bible, please read the following sentences. As you read, please pay attention to whether or not the statements are true. If you decide a statement is true, please write a “T” before it. If you decide a statement is false, please write an “F” before it.

- _____ 1. No one ever saw Jesus again after His death.
- _____ 2. Jesus was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.
- _____ 3. Jesus said that all power was given to Him in heaven and on earth.
- _____ 4. Jesus no longer reigns over His kingdom, the church.
- _____ 5. Jesus told His disciples to go into all the world and teach all people.
- _____ 6. Jesus set the pope over the church to be its head on earth.
- _____ 7. Jesus is still involved in the affairs of the church.
- _____ 8. We do not have to do what Jesus said.
- _____ 9. Jesus does not want any new people in His

kingdom.

____ 10. Jesus wants us to confess to others that we have faith in Him.

Please, complete the following scriptures with the help of the New King James Version of the Bible.

Ephesians 1:22-23

“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to ____ over all things to the _____, which is His _____, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”

Colossians 2:18-19

“Let no one defraud you of your reward, taking delight in _____ and _____, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the _____, from whom _____, _____ and _____ by joints and ligaments, _____ with the increase which is from God.”

Hebrews 4:14-16

“Seeing then that we have a _____ who has passed through the heavens, _____ the Son of God, let us _____ our confession. For we do not have a High Priest _____ with our weaknesses, but was in all points _____ as we are, yet _____.”

1 Peter 4:11

“If anyone speaks, let him speak as the _____. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which _____, that in all things God may be _____ through _____, to whom belong the _____ and the _____ forever and ever. Amen.”

THOUGHT QUESTIONS: Please, think about the following questions and write a short paragraph about each of them.

1. Does it appear to you possible that Jesus can guide the church and control it from heaven? Please explain.
2. If a person sets out to obey Jesus, do you think it will make a big difference in his or her life? How will it affect him or her?