Section: Doctrine of Christ (Christology)

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Rob Barber

**TEACHING NOTES**

**Q76. How is Christ our King?**

Christ is our King by subduing and ruling over all the Father has given Him.

**Intro:**

For the past 2 weeks, we have been studying how Christ fills the 3 offices of prophet, priest, and king. Tonight we focus in on Christ’s office of king.

Let’s pray that the Lord would encourage, teach, and strengthen us through His word tonight.

PRAY…

Let’s jump in and start unpacking our Q&A to see how Jesus is the ultimate King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the King that all other kings will bow down to.

**Q76. How is Christ our King?**

Our answer says “Christ is our king by subduing and ruling over all the Father has given Him.”

**He reigns over creation**

Just like His office of prophet and priest are in relationship to His people, chosen by God for salvation before creation, the office of King that we are focusing on tonight is specifically in regard to how Christ fills the office of King for US, His chosen people. In other words Jesus prophetic and priestly offices only benefit the citizens of His kingdom, He doesn’t perform these roles in a blessed way for those outside of His kingdom. In the same way the office of King that we are considering tonight is the one He fills over His eternal, heavenly kingdom, the kingdom of God.

This kingdom of God consists only of those who have been born of the Spirit of God.

**John 3:5-7** Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again. '

There is an important distinction we need to understand between Christ’s rule as King over creation and His rule over the “Kingdom of God.” Let’s look first at the universal rule of Christ over all creation.

As the second person of the triune God, Jesus rules and reigns over all of creation as God. This is not a right He has received but is a right that has been with Him eternally being co-equal in the Godhead and co-equal as Creator.

**Colossians 1:16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

**Psalm 24:1-2** 1 The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers.

**Isa 40:21- 23** Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; 23 who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.

God exists above, beyond, and independent from creation. He is transcendent. He is far above all other rulers and authorities. There is no comparison...to question His right to rule is absurd.

There is no king or ruler on earth who has not received his throne and right to rule from God.

All earthly kings are established by God and ultimately serve His purposes.

**Proverbs 21:1** The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will.

**Daniel 2:21** He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings;

**Romans 13:1** Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God.

ALL kings and human rulers are placed in power by God, for His purposes, and His sovereign plan. We should draw great comfort in knowing that the human rulers over us are ultimately placed there by God and are being used for His perfect plan and purposes. When things look bleak and hopeless we can rest in knowing that our King is still on the throne, reigning and ruling, even over those who do not submit to His rule, for our ultimate good and for His glory.

Christ’s rule and reign over all of creation is not limited in any way. He is not required to get approval or permission from anyone, not even the Father. His authority, as with the other two Persons of the trinity, is absolute.

Now, with all that said, our answer states, “Christ is our King by subduing and ruling *over all the Father has given Him*.” So there is a special kingdom for us to focus in on.

The distinction we want to take note of tonight is that there is a particular kingdom for which God the Son was appointed as a King by God the Father. The particular kingdom Christ was appointed to have is a kingdom that has been set apart as holy. This everlasting Kingdom is one that is practically covenanted to God the Son—a kingdom He had to do the work to earn. As we studied before, in the Covenant of Redemption, the Father covenanted a kingdom to the Son, based on the work the Son would do in time and space to earn and establish that kingdom. It is a kingdom that does not include those who are not individually called into the kingdom by God Himself—those whose lives are not made new, unto being marked by the rule and reign of Christ over their lives. It’s the kingdom we were taught to pray for when we repeat the words of our Lord Jesus, “thy will be done, thy kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven.”

**Christ Subdues**

The particular kingdom Christ was appointed to have was not an ***established*** kingdom that He is granted to rule over. It’s a kingdom that He must earn and establish, that He must subdue.

Christ’s kingdom is one made up of people who were once hostile to Him and at enmity with Him. It’s also a kingdom of righteousness whose citizens must also be perfectly righteous.

**Matthew 5:20** For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

**1 Corinthians 6:9-10** Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, 10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

How can those who are unrighteous become citizens of a Kingdom of righteousness?

Pastor and Theologian Samuel Renihan helpfully writes this (and this is in your handout),

“The kingdom proclaimed by the Christ is a kingdom not of this world (John 18:36). Though the full unveiling of the nature of this kingdom occurs in the apostolic writings, the ministry of Christ established all its fundamental features. It is a kingdom from above, a kingdom entered not by natural birth, but supernatural birth (John 3:3–6). It is a kingdom belonging not to those born of the flesh, but those born of the Spirit (Matthew 8:11-12). It is a kingdom belonging not to those born of Abraham's body, but his belief (John 8:39, 56). It is a kingdom whose localized assembly is based on faith in Christ and the exercise of His authority (Matthew 16:16–19). It is a kingdom of those who are humble and helpless like children (Matthew 18:1-4).” – Samuel Renihan

The London Baptist Confession of 1689 says this, speaking of Christ the Mediator:

Because we are hostile and utterly unable to return to God, and so that we can be rescued and made secure from our spiritual enemies, we need his kingly office to convince, subdue, draw, sustain, deliver, and preserve us for his heavenly kingdom. ~ London Baptist Confession of 1689

Because of our fallen-ness in Adam, we were brought forth spiritually dead, and that is shown evident in our subsequent, willful sin. Each one of us, was held captive by sin and followed the spiritual forces of evil as willing participants. Our sin had such a hold on us that we didn’t even want to be rescued. So, King Jesus had to go to battle on our behalf, to do the work required of Him by covenant with God, to pay for our sin and to defeat our spiritual enemies, even while we were fighting against Him on the enemy’s side.

**Romans 5:8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

His kingly victory has subdued our enemies and set us free from the bondage of sin and death, along with subduing our hostility towards Him and making us His friend. Our king has not lead us into battle, fighting beside us, no, He has single-handedly won the battle for us, securing our victory and freeing us to follow Him and share in the spoils of His victory.

Christ performs His office of king over us in love for us, not in judgment and wrath. He will use a rod of iron to subdue those who reject Him but for those of us He has come to save, He subdues with a shepherds rod and staff (Psalm 23). He subdues us into loving fellowship with Him as opposed to how He subdues the wicked angels in chains of gloomy darkness (2 Peter 2:4).

When Christ hung on the cross under the title “king of the Jews” and cried “it is finished”, He was referring to the work required of Him in order to subdue and redeem the citizens of His eternal kingdom.

When He returns for the Day of Judgment Jesus will finally and completely subdue the kingdom of this fallen world.

**The Return of the King**

When Christ returns to judge the world, those who are counted righteous through their faith in Christ, who lived their new lives in joyful service to the King, they will inherit the kingdom of God.

But for those who have not, by grace through faith, served and obeyed Christ as King, He will send away to eternal punishment. This will include many who claimed Jesus as their savior but did not love and obey Him as their king. He will reign and rule even over Hell. Jesus is Lord of all and King of all, but to those who do not honor Him as King, His rule over them will be harsh and violent. He will rule with a rod of iron and a sword of vengeance.

Scripture is clear that a day of judgment is coming when Christ will finally and completely destroy (meaning subject to eternal punishment) all who have rejected Him as Lord and King.

**Psalm 2:7-9** I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. 9 You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."

**Psalm 110:5-6** 5 The Lord is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath. He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth.

It can be difficult for us to comprehend that we will rejoice when Christ returns to exact this violent judgment on His enemies. That’s partly because we are still hoping for those who are currently His enemy, that they would be saved by the gospel. We are not ready to write off all of God’s enemies as doomed to eternal punishment and vengeance from the Lord. This reality should compel and encourage us to make the most of the time we’ve been given to proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God.

But we should also be able to look forward to that day of judgment, when Christ our King will execute His perfect justice and wrath against sin and the enemies of His reign and rule, when He will return as our warrior king, who fights the final battle for us, and we are ushered into the kingdom that He has prepared for those who love Him.

All people will acknowledge Christ as King and Lord when He comes and judges the world. Those who have longed for His coming will do so in joy, and the wicked will do so in fear and terror.

**Phillipians 2:10- 11** 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The book of Revelation gives us an awesome picture of the return of the King.

**Revelation 19:11-16** 11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

This is the same Jesus who came as a humble servant and lived a meek, bold, and gentle life while he was here. He was not acting differently than His character. He had the same hatred for sin during His first coming as He will at His final return. He had come to work and earn in the midst of this sinful world in order to save and redeem His chosen people from their sin (John 3:17). He hadn’t come to condemn us along with the rest of fallen creation.

But, when He returns again it will be to end this first broken creation and to judge every person to ever live.

Samuel Renihan again:

“The King will return to raise and judge mankind, sending His sheep to everlasting glory in the new creation, and the goats to everlasting punishment in Hell. And the fullness of the blessings of the New Covenant and the kingdom of God will be enjoyed eternally, the supreme blessing being the bridegroom himself, Jesus Christ ‘who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen’ (Romans 9:5).”- Samuel Renihan

What a glorious day that will be for the saved. But for all those who have refused to honor the King and have denied Him the worship He is due, and even worse those sinners who also have been offered the good news of Christ’s gospel…who have been called to come in and dine at the King’s table, and have rejected that gospel declaration, their suffering will be unimaginable.

**Christ is reigning and ruling now:**

With these things lined out, let’s consider further that Christ is reigning and ruling now.

Ephesians 1:22, Hebrews 2:8, 1 Corinthians 15:27 all tell us that Jesus has "everything under his feet." This means all of creation is under His rule, but that rule is only *enjoyed* by those who are a part of His kingdom. His lordship and rule is not something that fallen man wants or is even able to submit to as good. The reign and rule of Christ over His people is a blessed gift that we have been given by His grace. The kingdom of Heaven—Christ’s kingdom—is not purely a future reality. Christ established a visible present manifestation of His kingdom in the present age—that is, His church.

**1 Peter 2:9-10** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

We, those who have saving faith in Christ alone, are no longer to be identified as citizens of this world but as citizens of His kingdom. We are sojourners and exiles in this world. Just as in the Old Covenant the Israelites were to be a distinct light to the nations around them, they were to be set apart, to be Holy, to display the glory of God through the way they conducted themselves as His chosen people.

We know now that all of the laws and promises that God made to them were just a shadow of what was to come. When we look at the laws God gave to govern the nation of Israel and think about what it would have been like to live in a society that perfectly obeyed those laws, it is more beautiful than anything we have ever experienced on this earth. If they had obeyed God’s laws it would have been the closest thing to Utopia we have ever seen.

But even that does not compare to what God has prepared for those He has called out of darkness into His marvelous light. Think about it, God’s law is perfect, but much of what you will read in the books of the law are in response to the presence of sin, hence the need for all of the sacrificial laws. Those sacrificial laws were pointing to our once for all perfect sacrifice, Christ Jesus, who has made those particular laws obsolete.

Samuel Renihan again,

“The Christ, (Jesus), claimed absolute authority in the kingdom of Heaven. He is it’s king…The ministry of Jesus Christ initiated the unveiling of the full and final plan of God. Jesus began to reveal the blessing for the nations—a new humanity in a new kingdom through a new covenant to be received by faith in Christ Himself.”- Samuel Renihan

We are so blessed to be on this side of Christ’s resurrection where we have the full revelation of God’s plan of salvation and final glory for His elect. We know that Christ’s life, death, and resurrection has purchased our freedom from sin and from God’s wrath, and that we will live together with Him in a kingdom that is empty of sin and death. All of the eternal consequences of sin for the redeemed have been destroyed on the Cross by our Prophet- Priest- King.

Christ our King is reigning and ruling at the right hand of the father even now. We have received the blessing of this living hope. While we have been guaranteed the inheritance of all that comes with our citizenship in His kingdom, we have not yet received it all. There is an already/not yet way we experience His reign and rule as King. Right now we are like the Israelites as they were called to go into the promised land and rid it of all the inhabitants so they could take full possession of it. They were partially there in the promised land but they had not yet realized the Shalom, the blessed peace and rest that was associated with the Promised Land.

Likewise, we are right now in the kingdom of God, we are full citizens of His kingdom. He is our King and we serve Him and are sealed by His promised Holy Spirit, and yet there is still work being done, there are still preparations being made for the final and glorious revelation of our full entrance into His kingdom. We are still looking forward to the day when our King will return and bring us in to His heavenly kingdom where there will be no more sin or death, and we will know the joy of being in His presence for eternity.

The Israelites in the Old covenant were required to perform a national level of obedience to all of God’s commands in order for them to inherit and maintain the physical promises they were given, but the conditions for us to inherit the Kingdom of God are met completely by Christ Himself and are received by grace alone through faith alone, not by any meritorious works on our part.

So since we are a part of His kingdom through the perfect and completed work of Christ, and we have His guarantee that He will lose none that the Father gives Him, we don’t have to live or behave a certain way in order to maintain our citizenship. If we are in, we’re in. But...if we are truly a part of His kingdom of righteousness, than we will reflect that in the way we live, not because we are trying to earn or maintain God’s favor, but because it is who we are as chosen and beloved citizens of His kingdom, members of His royal priesthood.

The way that we behave and act is a reflection of who we are. Are we truly citizens of the kingdom that is ruled by Christ the King? If so, than it should be clear to those from other nations (and I don’t mean nations other than the United States, I mean all those outside the Kingdom of God) that we serve ***Him*** as King, not some other king. There should be no confusion as to where our loyalties lie.

If Christ is truly our King, then we will serve Him as our Lord and King. We will live lives that reflect our citizenship in His kingdom. The way that we love one other will show that we are truly His subjects.

Jesus tells us that our love for one another will be a distinguishing mark between those who are of the kingdom and those who are not, between those who are sheep and those who are goats. Let’s look at that account in:

**Matthew 25:31-46** "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. ' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? ' 40 And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. '

41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me. ' 44 Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you? ' 45 Then he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me. ' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

If Jesus is our Lord and King, we will serve Him by also serving the needs of those around us, especially those who bear the name of Christ. We cannot say that we truly love Him if we do not love His people. Our love for one another is how the world will recognize that we are Christians, that we are citizens of the kingdom of God. Our nationality as citizens of Christ’s kingdom is not determined by our language, our skin color, or our geographical borders.

It’s important for us to remember that our brothers are located all around the world, in Mexico, in Russia, in Syria, in Iran, Iraq, and Israel…not just in America. So it’s ok to pray “God bless America”. But let’s make sure that we are not thinking of America as more important or more worthy of blessing. Jesus taught us to pray “**thy kingdom** come, thy will be done on **earth**”.

The reason we are still here is to call God’s people out of every tongue, tribe, and nation on earth. His authority as king over all of creation and His presence by His Holy Spirit within the kingdom of God here on earth is where our confidence and power come from to complete the mission He has given us.

**Matthew 28:18-20** "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Look again at Matthew 25:40:

“And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me’.”

Christ the King is identifying with His subjects as His brothers. How awesome is that! He is our brother King. Just as God commanded of the Israelites in Deuteronomy 17, that their king must be from among their brothers, we have a King who is our brother, and He represents us as a brother. His kingdom is made up of His own family, adopted by the purchase of His blood.

This should encourage us to be identifying with and loving our brothers around the world. How are you identifying and loving your brothers in places around the world that may not be considered allies, and may even be considered enemies of the United States?

That is the kind of righteousness that shows our love for our true King and that shows that we are citizens of a kingdom not of this world, but made up of people from every part of this world.

One of the most heavenly experiences I have ever had is when I’ve had the opportunity to visit other countries or cultures and to worship together with them. It is truly amazing to see the incredible differences in our dress, language, culture, and experience, and then to hear testimonies of the same God of amazing grace and how He has revealed himself to them by His Holy Spirit in the same way He has me. There is an overwhelming sense that comes upon you when, even though you’ve never met these people and have absolutely nothing in common with them in terms of physical experiences, you see so clearly that we share a deep and powerful connection of unity in Christ - that I love these people like my own family, because they actually are my family!

It is a wonderful taste of the truth in:

**Psalm 133:1** Behold, how good and pleasant it is

when brothers dwell in unity!

**Application:**

In Sam Renihan’s book The Mystery of Christ – His Covenant and His Kingdom he walks through the narrative of scripture and shows how God has progressively revealed the mystery of Christ starting with the first announcement in the garden where God promised that the seed of the woman would bruise the serpents head all the way to His arrival in the New Testament where Jesus is revealed as the long awaited messiah that had been promised.

The promised messiah was foretold and revealed throughout the Old Testament but not completely. His identity was revealed progressively over time. The mystery of who Christ is starts with the very broad “seed of the woman” and progressively narrows to the son of David.

In the covenant God made with Abraham to multiply him and make him a great nation, He promised that Abraham would be blessed and that in him all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

**Genesis 12:1-3** Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Later on in Genesis God brings further clarity and description to the covenant He makes with Abraham.

**Genesis 17:6-7** I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. 7 And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

The identity of the Christ is narrowed from the seed of the woman to a physical descendant of Abraham.

Roughly 1000 years after God makes a covenant with Abraham, He makes a covenant with King David. Psalm 89 and 132 comment on this covenant:

**Psalm 89:3-4** You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: 4 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations. '"

**Psalm 132:11**The Lord swore to David a sure oath

 from which he will not turn back:

 "One of the sons of your body

I will set on your throne.

The promised Messiah is further revealed to be a King that would sit on the throne of David forever.

The sovereign way that God established the throne of David is very helpful in reminding us that He is at work to accomplish His eternal purposes even when it looks like His will is being thwarted and denied.

**1 Samuel 8:4-9** Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah 5 and said to him, "Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations." 6 But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the Lord. 7 And the Lord said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. 8 According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. 9 Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

In spite of his stern warning, the people only heard what they wanted to hear, and believed what they wanted to believe.

**1 Samuel 8:19-20** But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, "No! But there shall be a king over us, 20 that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."

The Israelites had glamorized what a human king would do for them, and had completely ignored the fact that God had been the one to judge them and go out before them and fight their battles.

They had set their hopes in a fallible human king, wanting to be just like the other nations, thinking that what those other nations had was better than what they had been given, and what they had been promised by God. Their sin and their lack of faith in who God had proven Himself to be resulted in them seeking to establish their own idea of what was good for Israel.

But of course, this was no surprise to God, it was part of His pre-ordained plan.

In **Deuteronomy 17:14-15** it was prophesied that Israel would reject God as king.

"When you come to the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, 'I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,' 15 you may indeed set a king over you whom the Lord your God will choose. One from among your brothers you shall set as king over you. You may not put a foreigner over you, who is not your brother.

So God had ordained that Israel would reject Him as their king and acted sovereignly to use their sin to accomplish His purpose of establishing the eternal Kingdom of Christ through the line of King David.

Israel had their own ideas about the kind of king they wanted. They were not content with God’s revealed will for how they should be governed. Then when God graciously gave them a king and they experienced all the ***physical*** blessings that God had promised to Abraham under the reign of King David and King Solomon they were certain that God’s promise to establish King David’s throne forever meant that they would continue to experience all of the temporary, physical blessings forever.

But then after the bitter disappointment of the long line of evil kings that eventually lead to Israel’s exile into captivity by other nations, they began to look and pray for the Messiah, the promised one who would come from the tribe of Judah in the line of David.

The New Testament begins with a lineage that announces and names Jesus as the long awaited Messiah, the King of Israel who would rule and reign forever. There were some who rejoiced at His coming, but as a whole, once again, He was rejected by the nation of Israel.

**John 1:11** He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.

Once again, Israel had their own ideas and desires for what their King should look like. They were still thinking in very temporal, narrow terms in regard to the reign and rule of their king, and how he would subdue their enemies. They wanted the messiah to bring a revolution that would bring them out from under Roman rule and restore the physical nation of Israel to the place of prominence it had enjoyed under King David and King Solomon.

Because of their continued stubbornness to insist that they have a king like the other nations, they completely missed being a part of the fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham that Israel would be a blessing to ALL the nations. They still wanted Israel to be like all of the other nations in the way that it was ruled and established. God was doing something far greater and comprehensive that they had been given the blessing of not only being first in line to receive, but also the honor and blessing of being the means God would use to bless all the nations of the earth.

Sometimes it’s so easy for us to look back and think, wow, how could they have missed it? Christ was right there in the flesh, performing signs and wonders that were undeniable and they still didn’t want to follow Him as their king.

But how guilty are we of falling prey to the same mindset, even while we are claiming Christ as our King?

This coming presidential election we are about to have has been called the most important election in our nation’s history by people on both sides of the political spectrum. That may or may not actually be true, but what is true is that many people, including many who claim to be citizens of the kingdom of God are operating and believing that if their candidate doesn’t win, all hope is lost. There is a desperation that reveals an utter dependency on having the king of their own choosing, one who will rule the way they think is best.

Now, we could argue that one candidate may be much more supportive and in line with leading our nation in accordance with God’s revealed will, and that is the standard we should use when considering how we should vote and participate as a people with dual citizenship, but we cannot put so much weight into the importance of our earthly king that we forget that our heavenly king is reigning and ruling over it all.

We show our ultimate allegiance, dependence, and faith in Him by resting in His rule and reign. That doesn’t mean that we become lazy and complacent, or stop caring about the corruption of society. What it does mean is that no matter how bad the world around us gets, we remain steadfast in the mission God has given us to proclaim the good news of the **kingdom of God** and make disciples of **all nations**. It means living our lives in such a way that our greatest hope is not in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These are good gifts from God that we should work to defend as much as possible, but they are not required in order for us to complete our mission. In fact, it could be argued quite easily that these things are more often a hindrance to our mission. When we elevate the importance of our life, our liberty, or our temporary happiness, we are missing the fact that our king gave up all of those things in order to save us and bring us into His eternal kingdom.

When we pray for God’s kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven, we cannot pray that in hopes for something that He has already told us is NOT going to happen. This earth in its current form is NEVER going to be that kingdom. Jesus has made it clear that this earth is passing away and is going to be destroyed.

Jesus Himself modeled this reality when He spoke these words to Pontius Pilate in:

**John 18:36** Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world."

Our goal is not to establish the kingdom of God here on earth by increasing our political power and influence to forcefully establish the rule and reign of God when Jesus has made it clear that His kingdom is not of this world! We bring the kingdom of God to earth as it is in heaven when we as the church, and as individual members of the church, increasingly yield to His reign and rule in our lives as we are sanctified in righteousness and obedience to His commands. It’s not about getting society to conform to the kingship of Christ, it’s about us as individual believers and as the church being conformed to Him through His complete rule and reign in our lives. That is where the kingdom of Christ exists on this earth, so let us live as citizens of His kingdom and not despair over the disappointment of human government’s failure, to bring the peace and security that can only be found in Christ.

“How is Christ our King? *Christ is our King by subduing and ruling over all the Father has given Him*.”

 …PRAY