

I am convinced that among all of the things you might know and believe in your life, two things stand above them all as most important. Upon these two Truths everything else is built:

- 1) **Jesus is Pre-Eminent** – He is the Greatest. He is the Best. He is God.
- 2) **Serving Him is what Life is All About** – Being a Christian. Following His Example and Instruction.

I find it interesting in our worship, that we tend to spend a lot of our singing and praying on the first thing – we sing about His Wondrous Glory, we pray in thanksgiving for Christ’s Willingness to Die.

And we spend a lot of our preaching and teaching time on the second thing  
- obey His will, fight sin, set proper priorities, be faithful to worship, do the right thing.

And hey, nothing wrong with that. But when I got up here to work on Monday morning, I was pretty worn out from the previous day. We had some pretty heavy lessons on the second thing: eliminating Drama from our fellowship and dressing Modestly in Christ’s name. And to be honest, I just wanted to spend the week studying the first thing for a while and presenting the Glory of Jesus. Okay with you?

I have a theory – that much of what we want to accomplish in the second thing is done by more fully believing and being moved by the first. We’ll see this week.

**Colossians 1:15-22** – I’m going to read this about Jesus. You can open your Bible and read along, or just listen to the read while you look up at the screen. Each time something descriptive about Jesus is read, I’ll post it there. We will get a wide and amazingly full picture of Christ from this short section.

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|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. (15) “He is the image of the invisible God”      | Jesus is God                |
| 2. (15) “the firstborn of all creation”             | Supreme in rank             |
| 3. (17) “He is before all things”                   | Eternal and Preexistent     |
| 4. (17) “in Him all things hold together”           | Sustainer of All things     |
| 5. (18) “He is also head of the body, the church”   | Ruler over His People       |
| 6. (18) “He is the beginning”                       | Originator of the Body      |
| 7. (18) “the firstborn of the dead”                 | Defeater of Death           |
| 8. (19) “all the fullness to dwell in Him”          | Fullness of God’s Greatness |
| 9. (20) “made peace through the blood of His cross” | Sacrificial Peacemaker      |
| 10. (22) “present you before Him holy...”           | The Great Purifier          |

But if you REALLY want to know Him. If you want to be strengthened and filled up with His love and live for Him beyond anything you’ve experienced before – a list like this is just the beginning. You and I must see Him in his ROLES, the roles that possess all these qualities but link directly to your life every day.

Example: Sommer is an amazing woman. And I could make a list of nouns, adjectives, and adverbs telling you about how wonderful she is. *Caring, Sacrificial, Kind, Forgiving, Tenderhearted, Always thinking of others over herself... like, always.* But if you really want to know who she is, I need to talk to you about how all of that lives in the ROLES she has -- WIFE, MOTHER, DAUGHTER, FRIEND. You would feel it.

So it is true with Jesus. He has willingly accepted ROLES that are VITAL to our past, present and future. Let’s look at FOUR of those this morning. And when you see our list in “REAL LIFE” in DIRECT RELATION to YOU and your NEEDS, Oh how you will love Jesus, speak of Him, and serve Him easily.

## I. Jesus is Prophet

- a. *Old Times* – limited in amount, consistency, number, lifespan – people depended on them.
- b. How will you know the mind of God? How will you ever know who He is, what He wants, and His will for your life? A prophet was someone who was given that and shared it.
- c. Jesus is Prophet. **Hebrews 1:1-3; John 1:1,14; Acts 3:22-24; John 17:7-8**
- d. Everything we know about God's will for us is because Christ brought it to us.
- e. Really changes the way we read the Bible, the Words of Jesus – connecting God to us!

## II. Jesus is Priest

- a. *Old Times* – limited in godliness, selflessness, longevity – people depended on them.
- b. Okay, so we are humbled, crushed by God's message of His righteousness and our sin. And we want to send up pleas of mercy and messages of allegiance. How do we do that?
- c. A priest was a temporary person on earth who sent those message upward.
- d. Jesus is Priest – **Heb. 3:1-2; 4:14-16; 5:6; 7:25-26; 9:11-12**
- e. How do you get to God? How do prayers work? Will God listen. Yes. Jesus is our priest.

## III. Jesus is King

- a. *Old Times* – when godly people were free, when ungodly people suffered. All about king.
- b. But what about the devil?! What about the fact that the adversary is here and effective and threatening sin and death. I'm powerless to stop that. Who will defeat Him for us?!
- c. Jesus is King – **Zech. 6:11-13; Luke 1:32-33; Mark 16:19; I Cor. 15:24-26**
- d. We are a part of something power – victory unto and beyond death. Satan is impotent.
- e. **Daniel 2:44; 7:13-14** –Remember our theory. When we get this we WILL serve HIM!

## IV. Jesus is Redeemer

- a. *Old Times* – animal blood, offerings w limited atoning power – pause button on judgment.
- b. Well, even with all of the above being true, there are still lost people. Though God's will is revealed, and Jesus is positioned to represent us, and the devil's threats are hollow, there are still people lost in their sin. They need something else, someone else:
- c. Jesus is Redeemer – He is Able – Heb. 9:25-27; Willing – Titus 2:14;
- d. Paid the Price – I Pe 1:17-21 – The only question is, who will let Him assume this role?
- e. Who has sin and needs it removed? Who feels unworthy and needs God's mercy.
- f. Jesus has taken on the role of Purifier of your soul!
  - i. **I Peter 3:21-22** – Let Him do this for you. He desires it greatly.
  - ii. **I Peter 4:12-13** – And no matter what comes or how hard – You Are Redeemed!

Conclusion: Back to **Colossians 1:15-22** – what an Awesome argument for Christ to be First in our Lives! But you have to internalize this. You have to connect to it.

- 1) I would know nothing of God if the Word had not come down to me – Jesus is Prophet
- 2) My please to God would go unheard and unanswered without representation – Jesus is Priest
- 3) No amount of faith could help me under the devil's dominion and power – Jesus is King
- 4) Though Christ has won, I can't switch sides because of my sin – Jesus is Redeemer.

Now you see how all of this finds it greatest value in how Christ's glory lives in you.

**Jesus is Pre-Eminent – He is the Best. He is the Greatest. He is God.**

**"FIRST PLACE IN EVERYTHING!"**

**Colossians 3:10** – As for all the other stuff we preach about – the second big thing – Serving Jesus is what Life is all about -- we'll keep preaching, keep helping – but it will always grow from here. His image is amazing. And I just want to love Him and be like Him. V15 – driven by the peace He brings to my life.