

## Jesus Christ, Our King

“Jesus Christ is Lord, whether you acknowledge him or ignore him.” These were the words of a young lady addressed to the academic who had ridiculed her for her “ridiculous faith”. She went on to say to him, “But there will be no way for you to ignore him in the end. Every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.” He proudly scoffed at her, while she smiled and asked the Lord to forgive him.

Jesus Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords. We don't ‘make Christ the Lord of our lives’. He is King over every life. He is not Lord of our nationalistic Christian Right, or our moralistic social order. He is King over every nation, land, and people. He is not Lord with limited authority, waiting to rule his kingdom in some future millennia in the earthly city of Jerusalem. He is King with all authority in heaven and on earth.

Jesus Christ is King who's throne is established in heaven and his kingdom rules over it (Ps 103:19). He is enthroned in heaven and his reign is over all his creation. His reign is his official present power to rule everything in heaven and on earth for the glory of God and God's purposes of salvations for all the nations. We wonder when we see the President out playing long hours of golf, ‘Who's minding the store?’ Our King is in the heavens doing all that he pleases over all that he has made.

There are two aspects to Christ's office as King. There is his kingdom of power and kingdom of grace. In his present reign as Jesus Christ the Lord he exercises full dominion over all, at all times. His kingdom power is a kingdom of grace revealed in wisdom. He wisely rules all things, ordering all things according to his infinite power, for the glory of his name among all peoples in the glory of his grace. He has ascended to the right hand of God the Father to rule over all creation for the glory of his name in his church. His kingdom is a kingdom of power and of grace.

His kingdom of grace is established in the hearts and lives of his people. He rules his church as the Head, and the church as his body (Eph 1:22, 4:15; 5:23; Col 1:18; 2:19). This is his spiritual rule, exercised in a spiritual realm. In the kingdom of grace, Christ is seen to rule the church of which he himself is head. His rule of his church is exercised by his mystical union with his body, the church (1Cor.12:27). His subjects are not established by their humanity but by his redemptive work. He was exalted to this place as King and Head of his church through his humiliation in his death at the cross. And all who live in him as those belonging to his kingdom come in by faith in him at the cross. There is no flag, no headquarters, not P.O. Box to identify the place of his reign of grace. There are only the redeemed of the Lord worshipping around his Word and Sacraments, revealed in his same humility by following their King, carrying their own cross and hoping in the joy set before them.

He is a conquering King for our good. He has sat down at the right hand of his Father until all his enemies are his footstool (Ps.110:1). His kingdom does not advance in earthly terms. We cannot connect the advance of his kingdom with cultural, economic, or political institutions. We cannot connect the advance of his kingdom to our personal prosperity, peace, or power. Though we may see the evidence of his rule there, it is not identified with them. His kingdom is far more glorious than what we can imagine in the earth. It is a present reality and a



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kingdom with no end (Mt.3:2; 2Pe.1:11). We can be sure in the midst of all uncertainties that he rules over all to be preeminent in all things for his own. The Creator of all is the Lord of all for the salvation of all who trust him. He order all things for his glory and the good of his church as he reconciles all things to himself as the firstborn of all creation. Those who kiss the King glory in his reign. But those who will not subject themselves to is powerful and gracious rule will not inherit his kingdom, but dwell in outer darkness and tormenting burning thirst. Jesus Christ is King, a King to follow as his goodness and mercy follow you all the days of your life.

*‘The King of love my Shepherd is, his goodness faileth never;  
I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.’*

## Servants Needed

Being united to Jesus Christ in his salvation is not voluntary. “He came to seek and save the lost.” (Lk.18:1) Neither is being united to his body, his church. “You did not choose me, but I chose you.” (Jn.15:16). Believing the gospel of Jesus Christ is not good advice or a suggested way of life, it is a command. “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved.” (Acts 16:31). Becoming a part of his church is not a job fair or an orientation where you can see which club you think you might best be approved by. Jesus was sent “to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” (Galatians 4:5) Therefore, because salvation is by grace and you are acceptable to God in Christ, church is not a voluntary organization. In view of his mercies we offer our whole beings to him in generosity expressed toward others. As the body of Christ we are called into his service (1Cor.12:27).

As you approach the new year here are some areas you can serve the Lord with glad and generous hearts. If you would like to serve in one of these ways contact Scott Dinkins [scott@ccotc.org](mailto:scott@ccotc.org) , Jim Wilkerson [jim@ccotc.org](mailto:jim@ccotc.org) , or Cindy Jones [cindy@ccotc.org](mailto:cindy@ccotc.org) , and we will get you connected:

- ❖ Children’s care 0 - 4 years old
- ❖ Children’s church 4 - 6 years old
- ❖ Teaching children 5 - 11 years old
- ❖ Teaching or Discipling students 12 - 18
- ❖ Teaching of Discipling adults (men and / or women)
- ❖ Hospitality
- ❖ Growth Group (small groups) hosting or leading
- ❖ Justice, Mercy and Evangelism Ministry Team (ministry in the neighborhood - city)
- ❖ Children’s Ministry team
- ❖ Finance Ministry Team
- ❖ Global Missions Team
- ❖ Counseling and Encouragement Ministry Team
- ❖ Women’s Ministry Team
- ❖ Worship Ministry Team

## Suggested Reading for the New Year

Dr. Ed Welch’s, *Running Scared: Fear, Worry, and the God of Rest*, is a helpful read in an age plagued by worry, anxiety, and fear. God calls us to strive to enter his rest through his Son Jesus Christ. And it is in him that our lives flourish in generosity toward others. However, human flourishing is stunted by our fears. As Charlie Brown said, “I think I’ve discovered the secret of life –replace one worry with another.” Living by this secret we seem never to grow past childhood.

Here’s a helpful prayer from his book that I hope will encourage you to pick up a copy and read.

*God, open my ears. I don’t clearly hear your care and compassion when you tell me not to worry or be afraid, but I know they are there. Father, open my eyes. I act like I see all reality. I act like I can see even more than you do. But I am seeing now that there is an entire world that is blurry to me, and that world is you. It is you I don’t see well. I want to trust in what you say and see the things you have revealed. That leaves me no choice but to start with humility. This is the way all journeys with you begin. Please teach me humility so that what you say overrules what I feel.”*