

ST. BARNABAS CHRIST THE KING COL. 1:12-20

How many countries in the world have kings or queens as monarchies,,,,, 43. Thats surprising,,,right. And in those countries,, when those monarchs appear the people for the most part stand for hours to see them with excitement and joy,, there is a level of great respect,, and loyalty,,a sense of awe about the historical genealogy that the royal family has played in the development of the country,, and the people are in tune with the goings on of the royal family because in them also lies the future,, so there is also a sense of reverence,,,, even though not all the news about the king or queen and family is is always positive,, nevertheless they love their king or queen.. In our war of independence from a king,, we threw the baby out with the bath water,, and forgot completely what it means to submit and be loyal to the authority of a King,,, and though that might have been a good thing,,,, its negative affect,, is that being so independent,, we find it difficult to submit,, with reverence and joy,, to Christ the King and Lord of Lords.

St. Paul's theme in our reading in Col. is the supremacy of Christ the King in and over all things,,, so that we might in spirit and truth surrender our independence and humbly submit our lives to Christ the King.. Paul tells us about seven qualities of character that our Lord and King possesses so that we might to know him better. The **first thing** St. Paul does is give thanks that Christ the King has made us as **believers qualified or acceptable to share in the inheritance of His holy ones in the light of his kingdom,,, and delivered you from the power of darkness,,, through redemption and forgiveness of sin.**

Why was that necessary? When Adam and Eve fell they joined the rebellion of Satan and his angels,,,Adam fortified his job and power to govern the world,,, an gave it to the evil one and the fallen angels,,, and

humanity became subjects of that evil kingdom.,, all humanity thereafter have been born into darkness and sin that opposes God.

The good news is,,we don't have stay there. **For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.** When we come to know the King of Kings and Lord of Lord's,,we have the forgiveness of sin,, that results in our being transferred from Satans slave market of sin and death,,, into Jesus kingdom,, and the Holy Spirit transforming our lives with the light of truth,, mercy and grace,, so we are to be more like the character of Jesus,,with the inheritance of life eternal.

What a blessing it is to know Jesus the King in a love relationship,, because we also get to know more of who the Father is. Jesus said to the disciples if you have seen me you have seen the Father.. **The second** thing Paul gives us is a verbal description of the qualities and character of Christ Jesus,, making us aware of the nature of the Father at the same time,, because it says that **Jesus is the image or refection of the invisible God.** When you read or hear the Gospels,, and see and hear what Jesus did,,, you see the very nature of the Father in action,, because Jesus said he never did or say anything he did not hear or see the Father do.

**The third** description Paul gives is that Jesus is king because he is **the first born of all creation**,,,meaning he was before and pre-eminent above all things existed,,the most exalted position in all creation,, **For in Him were created all things in heaven and on earth,,over all powers,, thrones,, dominions,,all things were created through him and for him.**

Everything belongs to the king who spoke everything into being for his own pleasure,, so he could accomplish the Fathers plan. The amazing thing is,, that the creator all things did this,,, so that he(Jesus) could take on human flesh,, to redeem fallen humanity,, you and me,, an qualify us to inherit the light of life in His kingdom..

Then once things were created,,, **the fourth** attribute of our king is ,, "in Him all things hold together." Right now at this moment Jesus is holding everything that exists together in harmony,,, he is in control of gravity,,, he has absolute authority keeping everything in the universe in its present state of existence and all the laws of physics. If Jesus let go for an instant everything would blow apart in chaos. Do you feel like you are moving very fast,,,,, the earth is moving at 67,000 mph each day around the sun,, what do you think would happen if Jesus stopped holding things together. What a king we have,,

Paul declares the **fifth truth**,,, **Jesus is head of the body the Church**. I am not referring to denominations here,, but to the body of Christ as a whole,,, meaning each believer,, filled with the Holy Spirit down through the ages to the present day,, whose name has been written in the Lambs book of life as scripture says. Those who have been purchased by the blood of the Lamb and walk in faith. This whole great church is the body of Christ in which he is the chief corner stone. As king,, scripture proclaims,,, he will present it to himself,,, as a glorious church without spot or wrinkle when he comes again.

**The sixth** great and important truth Paul says,,, **For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell**. Another way of saying this ,, we read in Col. 2:9,,, "In him(Jesus) dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." The fulness of the Godhead means that the total complete nature,,, of all the attributes of the Trinity dwelt in Jesus. The indwelling of all heavenly Deity in the humanity of Jesus is the reason he is the image or the refection of the Father,,, and upon the completion of his earthly ministry he ascended into heaven sitting at the right hand of the Father and received his exaltation as the head of the church and the first born of the dead. St Paul is

emphasizing this because Jesus is the one and only Mediator between God and man.

The last crowning **seventh attribute** is,, through him to reconcile all things for him(The Father) ,,making peace by the blood of his cross through him,, whether those on earth or in heaven. Reconciliation means that there must have been a state of brokenness,,or hostility between God and man that required restoration of our fellowship between man and God. We had sinned against the righteousness of God,, which required atonement or satisfaction for our sin. The amazing thing is that God took the first step,,scripture says,,He loved us first,, therefore he sent his son to a rebellious people and entered into a loving covenant with us,,laying on Jesus the chastisement for our peace,, appointing Jesus to atone for us making peace with the Father,, through the blood of his cross. Reconciliation and peace for every person who responds with an open heart to the love,, grace,, and forgiveness of Christ the King.

All of creation exists in and through Christ Jesus our King,, all creation was affected by his sacrifice and was joined together in participation with Him and reconciled. So heaven and earth owe to Christ the King absolute submission and loyalty,, adoration and praise for the salvation,,harmony and peace he provides as King and head of the church. The point of Pauls declarations are that angels and men alike,, depend totally upon Christ the King,,the only true object of worship. +++Amen

