



CONNECT GROUP NOTES

Sunday 14.05.2023

“Supremacy and Sufficiency”

Preacher

Ps. Nathan Bean

Scripture

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15 The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behaviour. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— 23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.”
Colossians 1:13-23



Thought

Colossians reminds us that we are not in control, but He is in control. In our world today, we are reminded that the world is not all it should be - but we can take heart that God is over all.

This text reminds us of the supremacy of Christ who rules and reigns above all. But we cannot just read this without considering whether He is actually supreme and sufficient in every aspect of our lives.

“Supreme” is an incredible claim, but this is what Paul is reminding us of - that Christ is supreme over everything - but not just over everything, He is sufficient in our lives. The word doesn't quite capture the meaning. What sufficiency means is that you don't add anything else to Him. He is enough on His own - all encompassing, all-sufficient, never a supplement.

When we understand His absolute sufficiency, we don't require anything else. Whether relationships or material security or personal accomplishment - whatever we try to add to our lives is a sign that Jesus hasn't been placed in the role of being all-sufficient.

This is a journey for all of us, but we move towards this goal, of Christ being our all-sufficient and not a supplement. Towards not needing anything else to equip us, to make us feel whole. The Gnostic line of thought is that we need more than Jesus, that we need more information, more secret knowledge - but Paul cuts across this and reminds us that we only need Christ.

Today, let us pause on that one thought. To dwell on the fullness of God in Christ Jesus, to consider the implications of truly placing our lives in His hands. Regardless of what is happening in the world, regardless of financial and social circumstances, regardless of our own internal struggles - the solution is not answers to our problems, but rather a larger vision of Jesus.

May our understanding of His goodness, His faithfulness, His all sufficiency, His supremacy, grow in our hearts and minds today. May it overtake any



fear, may it envelop every unanswered question, may it quiet our restless heart.

Christ holds all things together. He is, and always has been, the all sufficient one, the one who is worthy of our worship.

Discussion Points

1. Before we can fully understand Christ's supremacy, we must first understand His good character. How were you raised to view God? Did you see Him as harsh or strict or distant, or did you see Him as approachable, warm and close? How does your view impact the concept of Him being Supreme?
2. Christ's all-sufficiency challenges us to consider whether we rely on anything that is not Christ. Have areas of your life been highlighted as you consider this concept?
3. What would change in our thought life and in our actions if we truly understood that Christ holds all things together, that He is all-supreme, and He is all-sufficient in our lives?

Personal application + Prayer

Lord Jesus,

Thank you that You are above all. Thank you that in You, all things hold together. Help me to understand your good character, to place my life completely in your hands and to not rely on anything that is not You. Guide me in what it means to rest in Your sufficiency, and from that place be effective in spreading your light in the world. I rest and focus on You afresh today, Lord. I acknowledge You as king - of my world and of my heart, today and forever.

Amen