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Colossians (Part 2): Christ Supreme

Colossians 1:15-29
Rev Ming Feong Ching

SERMON SYNOPSIS

- **See Christ Clearly – He is supreme over all (Colossians 1:15-18)**
  The Bible teaches us that Jesus Christ is supreme over all. This is because Christ reveals the invisible creator God who is the Head of the Church and has overcome sin and death. Hence, to be a disciple/follower of Jesus Christ is to give Him *first place* in our lives (see Annex 1a), and NOT merely *a place* in our lives (see Annex 1b).

- **Stand Firm in Christ – He has reconciled us… He is enough (Colossians 1:19-23)**
  Jesus Christ is God and He has reconciled us to God the Father through His death. We are thus made holy, blameless and free from accusation in Him. Christ is *fully sufficient* for our salvation and believers do NOT need to add other powers, experiences or practices to obtain salvation. Hence, we serve *from* acceptance by God and NOT *for* acceptance; and our obedience to God flows from grace and out of a heart of gratitude, and NOT from trying to earn God's approval nor love. As disciples of Christ, we are to remain rooted, established and firm in Him.

- **Grow Mature in Christ – Let Him continue His transforming work in us (Colossians 1:24-28)**
  Spiritual growth or spiritual maturity is becoming increasingly like Jesus, and one concrete proof is that the character of Christ becomes increasingly visible *by others* in our lives. (Eg. We become more loving, forgiving and teachable). In fact, mature disciples understand more deeply their need for grace and increasingly allows that grace to shape how they live. (Eg. We learn to obey Jesus *even when* it is inconvenient).

  Discipleship involves effort (vs. 29), but it is not self-powered. Beneath our effort is Christ's power working in us. We put in effort to *keep on growing* to be like Christ because Christ is at work within us *through* the Person of the Holy Spirit! When we surrender to Christ for Him to redeem and restore **every aspect** of our lives, beginning with our character, attitudes, heart's motivations to His – Christ will transform the choices we make, our behaviour, speech and thoughts. Christ faithfully and lovingly does His work of transformation in us because He is loving, gracious and redemptive. When such transformation happens over time, we will then testify as the Apostle Paul did that the supremacy of Christ was *not merely* something he believed in, but *has reshaped* what he lived for, what he was willing to endure and who the person he was becoming.

Writing Team:
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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

RELATE

1. Different people have different things in the centre of their lives (Eg. money, recognition) or people (Eg. children, spouse, celebrity). Share with your CG what was yours *before* you became a disciple of Jesus.

REFLECT

2. Read the following Scripture passages about the life of Mary, Ananias & Sapphira, and king David. Identify *what or who* was at the centre of each of their lives, the *consequences* of their choices and what are *some lessons* we can learn about God and the lives of these individuals.

   [Verses to help us go deeper: Luke 1:26-38; Acts 5:1-11; 2 Samuel 12]

RESPOND

3. Which diagram in Annex 1 represents your life today, (a) or (b)? Where & how is Christ inviting you to grow as His disciple with regards to the diagram that represents your life today & share with your CG.

   Note: Some reflections to help one identify include – Is Jesus truly at the centre of your life (Annex 1a) or merely one part your life (Annex 1b)? What are you trusting alongside Jesus? OR what are you trusting instead of Jesus? Which room in your life remains closed to Jesus?

PRAYER POINTERS

- Praise and worship our Lord Jesus Christ who is *Supreme above all!*
- Thank God for extending His mercy, grace and love toward all mankind in & through Christ Jesus who is *fully sufficient* for our salvation!
- Ask God to convict everyone in TPMC & CGs to live with Christ at the centre of our lives – individually and as a church – and to persevere in growing in maturity in Christ by putting in effort to surrender every aspect of our lives to Him through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

SCRIPTURE TO MEDITATE ON

"Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. [29] For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me." [Colossians 1:28–29, ESV]

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Annex 1a:

Annex 1b:

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