

Prepositions of Supremacy

The core of Christ's supremacy - what gives increased substance to who He is as the Son of God, where He leads in the Purposes of God, how He imparts the Resources of God, and what He receives from the People of God - could be expressed in just a few prepositions. Let me provide you with this brief summary of my thoughts of how Christ's supremacy incorporates ALL He is in seven key areas:

TO us, FOR us, OVER us, BEFORE us, WITHIN us, THROUGH us, UPON us

Such simple words! Yet, I submit to you, everything Scripture presents to us about the glory of the Savior can be sliced a whole other way by these seven phrases. Each preposition proclaims the primacy of the Person whom we must adore through endless ages ... and why He is to be adored. The phrases provide working material for constructing an exciting Biblical "resume" for God's Son, a resume we can freely share with others.

To show you how quickly each preposition opens up magnificent vistas on our Victor, let me use verses from Colossians 1 to illustrate, I will highlight what is implied by each

TO us ... This speaks of how His supremacy is eternally rooted in His nature, His character, and His Trinitarian existence as the Son of the Father. We read in Colossians 1 - "God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him" (vs. 19).

FOR us ... This includes how His supremacy became fully visible through His incarnation: His righteous life, Spirit-filled ministry and teachings; as well as His Crucifixion, Resurrection, Ascension, and on-going intercession. We read in Colossians 1 - "through Him to reconcile to Himself all things ... through His blood" (vs. 20).

OVER us ... He is supreme-to-the-max as Ruler of history and Lord over the nations. But above all, He reigns as Head of the Church, called "the fullness of Him who fills all in all" (Eph. 1). Paul writes of the fulfillment that comes to all over whom He rules - "rescued ... brought into the Kingdom of the Son He loves ... firstborn over all creation ... from among the dead ... head of the body, the Church ... all things whether things on earth or things in heaven" (vs. 13, 15, 18).

BEFORE us ... Supremacy is displayed also by His pioneering leadership. He endows His people with new dreams and visions for serving His cause. Then He strikes out ahead of us to open doors for the Kingdom. He scatters the strongholds of dark powers to take us where we've never gone before. He brings God's purposes to their ordained climax. With other phrases from Colossians 1 Paul describes how He goes before us - "in Him all things hold together ... He is the firstborn from among the dead ... all over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing" (vs. 17,18, 6)

WITHIN us... He reveals His supremacy wherever His saving presence, holy Godlike characteristic, inexhaustible wisdom and multiple ministry gifts are lived out by His Spirit within the community of His people. He changes them individually and corporately. Paul also teaches the Colossians of the fullness Jesus puts within us "Christ in [among] you,

the hope of glory ... asking God to fill you ... share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light ... live a life a life worthy of the Lord" (vs. 27, 9,12, 10).

THROUGH us ... This points to how His reign reaches out by His Spirit through His Church to the unreached of the earth, both neighbors and nations. He works in union with His people to further His mission worldwide. Here's another demonstration of Christ's FULLNESS in our life with Him - "The commission God gave me ... to make known among the nations the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ ... to this end I labor, struggling with all His energy He so powerfully works in me" (vs. 29).

UPON us ... This reminds us that He is passionate for the consummation of all things in His reign. Sometimes His glory breaks through by frequent outpourings of the Holy Spirit for the renewal and revival of His Church. At these times He intensifies and accelerates the previous six displays of His supremacy. The "upon us" dimension, however, awaits its climax in His spectacular, bodily return to bring His victories to bear upon all Creation forever. One way we embrace this all-consuming destiny is by our fervency for Him now. Paul speaks of this - "Him we proclaim, teaching every person and warning every person that we might present every person complete in Christ ... please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might" (28, 10-11).

What a resume this is! No wonder Paul sums up the magnitude of this seven-fold vision of God's Son with that one decisive declaration in vs. 18.

"... that in everything He might have the supremacy."

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