

THE SUPREMACY OF CHRIST

GBC EQUIPPING HOUR | DECEMBER 20, 2020



Axiom 2: The Church Has a Head (Colossians 1:18)

PURPOSE: To be ready for the start of a new year, 2021, with three Christocentric axioms to live by.

I. The Sunset-Evading British Empire

A. The Victorian Era (1837-1901)

In 1890 Queen Victoria reigned over four hundred million people inhabiting a fifth of the surface of the globe. Indeed Britain ruled over so vast a domain that virtually nothing could arise in any part of the world that would not affect her. The British Empire, then seemingly at its apogee, exerted a strong hold on the contemporary imagination, one that cast Britain with a worldwide mission as an agent, it was believed, of good. (p. 434, *The Story of Britain*, 2018 ed., by Roy Strong).

B. Even After Sundown (Post WWII)

- Today English is the most spoken language in the world with 70 percent of English-speakers knowing it as their second language (“ESL”).
- Although today the UK is certainly not Christian (it’s actually neo-pagan like the US), they retain some resemblance to their old Victorian Era ways of politeness towards others, civility, and concern over the oppressed. Much of this stems from God’s common grace through the Christian influences of Queen Victoria, and before her William Wilberforce, and before him the Puritans.

II. The “Already” and “Not-Yet” of the Church

And he is the **head of the body**, the church...(Colossians 1:18a).

A. In the Church Today

- *The Lordship of Jesus Christ by Title & Office*

..that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him **at his right hand in the heavenly places**,²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.²² And he put all things under his feet and gave **him as head over all things to the church**,²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. (Ephesians 1:20-23).

- *The Lordship of Jesus Christ in the Practical Realm*

Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you?⁴⁷ Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like:⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. (Luke 6:46-48).

B. In the Church of Tomorrow

- *Present & Personal Progressive Sanctification*

“..You shall be holy, for I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:16)

- *Generational & Familial Progressive Sanctification*

And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed** into the same image from **one degree of glory to another**. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. (2 Corinthians 3:18).

III. The “Already” and “Not-Yet” of the World

...He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that **in everything he might be preeminent...** (Colossians 1:18b).

A. In the World Today

- *The Lordship of Jesus Christ by Title & Office*

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, **wise men from the east** came to Jerusalem,² saying, “Where is he who has been **born king** of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have **come to worship him.**” (Matthew 2:1-2).

- *The Lordship of Jesus Christ in the Practical Realm*

Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”³⁷ Then Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “**You say that I am a king. For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth.** Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.”³⁸ Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” (John 18:36-38).

B. In the World of Tomorrow

- *Convicting the World*

And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and **the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.**¹⁴ The second woe has

passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come. (Revelation 11:13-14).

- *Splitting the World*

And he said to me, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.”¹¹ **Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy.**¹² “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.”¹³ **I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.**” (Revelation 22:10-13).

IV. Practical “Already” / “Not-Yet” Living

.. According to Scripture, believers are already adopted in Christ (Romans 8:15), but not yet adopted (Romans 8:23); already redeemed in Christ (Ephesians 1:7), but not yet redeemed (Ephesians 4:30);

.. We live in a theological tension. By faith in Christ, all of these spiritual blessings are ours already, but the full enjoyment of these blessings is not yet ours. This is the life of faith: “the assurance of things hoped for” in the future, and “the conviction of things not seen” in the present (Hebrews 11:1). This is life between the times. (*Already, Not Yet – How to Live in the Last Days* –article for Desiring God website by David Briones, August 4, 2020).

The Supremacy of Christ Course Outline:

- December 6 - Introduction to Colossians 1:15-20
- December 13 - The Universe Has a Center / Col. 1:15-17
- December 20 - The Church Has a Head / Col. 1:18
- December 27 - Christ’s Body Does it All / Col. 1:19-20