

Word Notes Sunday 12/07/15

Michael Meeks – The Supremacy of Christ

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday)

Key Texts: Col 1:3-20

Paul's one enduring mission is to proclaim Jesus Christ, the one through whom and for whom all things are made. His goal for his readers is maturity (v28) and for this he toils, struggling with all the energy that powerfully works within him (v29). He writes his letter to put them straight on some erroneous ideas, that prevail even today, that Jesus is somehow a created being, a super angel, and that only the "few" can really know God.

Instead Paul wants to build understanding that Christ is the Lord of all creation, the one that really matters and that we can all know him and grow in him ourselves so that members of the church are not just born again and that's all, left forever as babies, but that we can and should grow and mature.

Our starting place is to fully accept Jesus into our lives, the head of the body, the church, the firstborn raised from the dead and to be encouraged that in everything Christ has the supremacy. The Church is a foretaste of eternity, the new creation. He is the boss of this new creation - we will one day share in new creation, the one He has gone to prepare a place for us and take us back.

All of God's fullness was and is in Christ. There is nothing missing in Jesus and this pleases God. Mankind lives life as if we are in control in a world that was made for us. This rejection of God and his Son and elevation of self to the place that is rightfully His has a cost that is Christ on the cross. Alternatively we may believe we are good, that we have never done anyone any harm, but that is such a short sighted vision for life – what good have we ever done? Good in the eyes of Jesus is to love the living God - that is what's needed!

If we fully accept and believe that Jesus is Christ, the supreme Son of God, the reason for all that we see, hear, touch, taste and smell – and all that we can't - that should affect how we think of every aspect of our life, or have we made our God too small?

Perhaps this is best seen in how we proclaim Jesus, how we speak to others about him. Do we speak of a baby in a manger, a carpenter or good teacher, a bleeding and tortured man dying on a cross? Or do we proclaim Jesus the resurrected head of humanity, the one and only mediator between God and Man - God and Man as one?

Simply put: "It's all about Jesus"! And that's not just for special group of people to know, only the clever, the leaders etc may know him, only those with secret knowledge – NO! All may know Him and we all need to grow in our vision of Christ so that he fills every part of our life.

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

Bear Grylls is someone we all look up to as "being in control" yet I've heard that the first thing he does when he wakes up is to pray. That sounds like giving Jesus supremacy in his life! Supremacy means "first above all other things" – in what ways do you give Christ supremacy in the nitty-gritty of life?

If we truly accept that God is in control, it will affect how we see things. How do you see this in:

- Your past?
- Your present?
- Your future?

What kind of Jesus do you talk about to unbelievers? Will you dare to talk about the One in whom all things live and breathe and have their being or limit Him to a "Mr Fixit" who is there solely to mend broken things? How do we find the balance of being Jesus' hands and also his voice?

Witness (this is the bit where the cell talks, plans and prays about how to share the Good News)

Step up! If you've been holding off sharing Jesus with someone then make a decision now and ask the Holy Spirit to strengthen you. If you truly have no-one to share Jesus with then ask!

Encourage one another to live out of your position in Christ not your situation in the world. Be a support and encouragement to those around you and look for the opportunities to give an account for your “other Kingdom” nature.