

## The Supremacy of Jesus

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I was reading an article about Kingsford Charcoal that I thought was interesting. In 1919, Henry Ford's company had sold more than 1 million vehicles and each Model T used 100 board feet of lumber. So, Henry Ford wanted to produce his own lumber. Ford asked a man by the name of Edward Kingsford, a real estate agent, to locate a good area to supply lumber. Kingsford found some land in Michigan and a sawmill was built. Henry Ford didn't like all the wood waste like stumps, branches, and sawdust go to waste. An Orin Stafford found a way to make pillow shaped lumps of fuel from sawdust and mill waste with tar which was bound together with cornstarch. He called this stuff "charcoal briquettes". Henry Ford had Thomas Edison design the factory and Ford had Kingsford run it. This new stuff was called "Ford's Briquettes" and they were first sold at Ford dealerships as well as to meat and fish smokehouses. In the 1930's, Ford started to market "Picnic Kits" It became a big hit to those who were suffering during the Great Depression. Then came the invention of the Weber grill and in 1951, an investment company bought the operation and renamed the product "Kingsford Charcoal". Today, Clorox Company owns the company. If you look back into history, you see how Henry Ford was the supreme automaker in the world. Not only that, but Ford was involved in so many other different things besides automobiles, like charcoal. Even the other automakers would come to Ford to learn how to make certain items. During WWII, many companies came to Ford to learn how to set up assembly lines. The American Government had asked Chrysler to make tanks during WWII and they had a problem with making engines that were too heavy for the Sherman Tanks. If they were too heavy, they wouldn't be able to work in the deserts of Africa. So, who did Chrysler turn to for a good engine design? If you answered Henry Ford, you were right. Ford helped them to design a great engine for the Sherman tank. Ford, in the early days, was the supreme automaker in the world.

As we begin to celebrate Christmas, we must remind ourselves as well about the supremacy of Jesus Christ. We take this too lightly at times. We celebrate the birth of a little baby that was born in Bethlehem. We have to keep in mind that

even though that little baby Jesus was little and small, He still had supremacy over the world. It is hard for us to understand how a little and physically weak baby could have supremacy over the world. However, that is who Jesus is and He still has supremacy today in the world we live in. So, I guess the question we can ask is who is this Jesus we celebrate the birth of during Christmas? I think we may take it too lightly. Let's take a closer look into this question.

We had been looking into Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome for the past three months and we finished that last week. However, we are still going to stay in the Paul mindset. Let's turn to Colossians 1: 15 – 20 where Paul states this through the Holy Spirit, <sup>15</sup> "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, <sup>20</sup> 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. (NIV – Biblegateway)

We had just gone over how Henry Ford was the supreme automaker during the early days of the automobile. History shows us the facts of this. We now have Paul giving the followers of Jesus information about the supremacy of Jesus. Paul had to do this because false teaching started to form about Jesus. Some had a hard time thinking Jesus was God, but yet still God in human form. This way be hard to understand because we know how frail and weak the human body is. So, some started to make Jesus less than who He really was. Paul wanted the Church to understand that Jesus was God, even when He was in human form. Today's Church is having the same problem where we have watered down the supremacy of Jesus and we have done this by watering down God's Holy Word. If we no longer fully believe in the Lord's absolute truth that comes from His Holy Word, then we won't fully believe in the full supremacy of Jesus in our own lives. How can we have a growing relationship with Jesus if we don't understand the supremacy of Jesus? Paul starts off by telling the Church that Jesus is the image of the invisible God and the firstborn over all creation. It's hard for us to imagine a God that is invisible. Paul let's us know that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. I like what one commentary stated that Jesus is the "exact representation" of the Father. This is not something new. John tells us the same thing in the



Gospel of John, “No one has ever seen God. But his only Son, who is himself God, is near to the Father’s heart, he has told us about him. (NLT, 1618)” This is so important to our faith. Jesus is God and is the “exact representation” of His Father. This invisible God allowed Himself to take on human flesh to become the perfect sacrifice for our sin when He finished His plan on the cross for us. This little baby was the “exact description” of God.

Then Paul adds that Jesus was the “firstborn” over all creation in verse 15. This is God’s way of trying to get us to understand in human terms the supremacy of Jesus. The term “firstborn” in Greek means higher status; supreme status and inherits all things. Jesus has inherited all things from God and this makes Jesus equal with God. Jesus is supreme over all creation. Jesus is creator as well. John tells us the same things again in John 1: 10, “But although the world was made through him, the world didn’t recognize him when he came. (NLT, 1617)” John also states in verse 3, “He created everything there is. Nothing exists that he didn’t make. (NLT, 1617)” This supports what Paul says about Jesus being the image of God. If we go back to Colossians 1, we see that Paul makes sure he uses the term “all” four times in verse 16 and 17. In Jesus, all things were created, all things have been created through Him and for Him, He is before all things, and in him, all things hold together. This tells us that Jesus is supreme over “all” things. The baby born in Bethlehem was supreme over all things even as a baby because He was God and still is God. I like what one commentary stated, “We need to be overwhelmed, but not by the finite things around us. We need to be overwhelmed by the infinite might and majesty of the Christ who is Lord over all creation – greater than our problems, greater than our dreams. We need to find a way to find the wonder. (Wesley Bible Curriculum)”

Not only do we need to find the wonder of Jesus, but maybe we need to rethink about what Paul states in verse 17 where Paul tells us that in Jesus all things hold together. This is a huge statement here. Not only is Jesus creator with His Father, but Jesus is the force that enables the universe and everything in it to maintain or preserve shape. Jesus holds all things together on this earth. Think about that for a moment. Without Jesus, the universe would not exist. Some may think a new President will change and make everything go better. Without Jesus, we wouldn’t be here. There would be no America, there would be no earth or sun. Jesus is what holds everything together and this gives Him the title of

Supreme ruler. This is the Jesus we serve. There is no one greater than He. However, Paul doesn't stop there.

In verse 18, Paul narrows his discussion to the Church. This supreme Jesus, because of who He is, because of how He holds all things together, gives Him the right to be the head of the Church. Jesus is the supreme ruler of His Church and the Church in America needs to be reminded of this. We are not the ones who make the rules or make changes to the rules on our own. Paul and John understood the supremacy that Jesus had over His Church. This is the reason the Church grew to such great levels in Acts was because of their view of Jesus and allowing Jesus to rule over His Church. It scares me a little on how much power we have given ourselves in dealing with Church matters. We have given ourselves maybe too much authority? We should be going to Jesus with all matters that goes on within the Church. We can't and should not let our culture and ourselves dictate on how the Church should be run. Paul states in verse 28 that "he might have the supremacy". The Greek term used here for supremacy means supreme, to have first place (Strong's Concordance). In other words, Jesus should have first place in the Church and be supreme over the Church, but we have the choice to allow that or not. The Church has failed miserably on this decision. We've allowed ourselves to become the supreme ruler and decision maker within the Church. All Churches should be handing themselves over to Jesus as the supreme leader and guide and authority. In verse 19, Paul reminds the Church that God was pleased to Have His fullness dwell in His Son. Again, Jesus is supreme over His Church. Jesus is supreme over our church (us and not the building). Let's remember that.

Paul takes this down to the personal level of Jesus' supremacy in verse 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 (NIV). Because of the supremacy of Jesus, this gives real power in the blood of Jesus. Jesus' blood is real power. It doesn't matter how bad your sin is, His blood can wash your sin away forever. The only sin that will not be washed away is the sin of total rejection of Jesus. Those who die without letting Jesus into their heart can not be forgiven and Hell is the punishment for that sin (Hebrews 10: 26 – 31). However, His blood is so powerful, we can take all sin to Jesus and His blood can take care of them – no matter how bad we think that sin is. We need to know how powerful



the blood of Jesus is so that we can better understand salvation and to trust Jesus' forgiveness. Not only this, but Paul even narrows the supremacy of Jesus even more.

Paul adds this in Colossians 1: 27, "To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. (NIV)" This same Jesus who is the image of the all powerful God, this same Jesus where all things were created in Him, and this same Jesus who holds all things together to keep this universe from unraveling lives within you. His Spirit lives within us when we allow Him into our heart and mind and when our sins are forgiven. Think about that for a moment. What keeps us from exploding with such a powerful force living within us? It is the love of God that keeps this wonderful force in check so that we can enjoy this unimaginable force on a daily basis. This was the plan of God for Christmas. This is the gift to us from God. This is the Jesus we serve. How can we ever repay Him for such a wonderful gift? All he requires from us is this to enjoy His full fellowship:

Micah 6:8 – "this is what he requires: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God."

Mark 12: 30 – "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. The second command is equally important: love your neighbor as yourself."

Is Jesus really supreme in your own life? Let's really celebrate the birth of Jesus this Christmas.

*NLT Life Application Study Bible.* Tyndale House Publishers: Wheaton, 1996

*The Strongest Strong's Concordance.* Zondervan: Grand Rapids, 2001.

*Wesley Bible Curriculum 2025.* Wesleyan Publishing House: Fisher, 2025