

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Every Praise, We Praise Your Name, Jesus, His Kingdom

WELCOME

Jesus Is. Who is Jesus to you? What do you believe about Him?

WORD

COLOSSIANS 1:16

¹⁶ *For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.*

What we believe impacts our behavior. Right believing will result to right living, while wrong thinking will lead to wrong living. We are all influenced by what we think and motivated to do things that come to our minds. Sadly, many of us today are short of proper thinking and this leads to improper behavior.

Right belief is the byproduct of having the right understanding of who Jesus is and what He has done for us. Whether we believe it or not, the truth is, Jesus is supreme. This means all authorities rest upon Him, and all things have been created through Him and for Him (**v.16**). With this in mind, believing in Jesus means to have Him supreme in our life.

SUPREMACY OF JESUS IN OUR LIFE

How then will we know if indeed Jesus is supreme in our lives? The letter of the Apostle Paul to the Colossians can help us because it speaks about the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Paul began by identifying right belief (**chapters 1-2**) which led to a description of right behavior (**chapters 3-4**). We can examine and determine the supremacy of Christ in our lives by using six 'tests' based on the first chapter of the letter to the Colossians.

1. Test of Faith (v.4). Faith is not a feeling but a choice. All of us have faith which we put into practice every day. Whenever we ride an airplane, we place our faith on the one flying the airplane even though we do not know who the pilot is. We also place our faith on the cook of the restaurant where we eat. Whatever we put our faith in is the object of our faith. How reliable the object of our faith is actually far more important than how big our faith is. If Jesus is the object of our faith then He should be supreme in our life.

2. Test of Love (v.4). The evidence of the supremacy of Christ in our lives is love. Our experience of His unconditional love compels us to forgive and to love others, even those who have hurt us.

3. Test of Hope (v.5). Because of hopelessness, many people get depressed and some even commit suicide. Without Jesus, this world is indeed hopeless. But followers of Jesus have an amazing hope which is anchored on the very character of Jesus and on the truth of His words (**Titus 1:2**). When God does not give us what we are hoping for, He will give us something better because He wants what is best for us and this is why we can confidently place our hope in Him.

4. Test of Fruit (v.6). Fruit is a byproduct of life and a tree bears fruit "according to its kind" (**Genesis 1:11-12**). Accordingly, it is in our fruit-bearing that test whether Jesus is supreme in our life or not. As we receive the grace of God and make Jesus supreme, He comes into our hearts. When Jesus comes into our lives, new life begins. Because of this new life, we will be changed slowly but surely. The Bible does not say that when we come to Christ we suddenly become perfect like Him. Instead, it says that we are on our way to being transformed, provided that Jesus is supreme in our heart. But if He truly is, then we will constantly and increasingly bear the fruit of the Spirit. More so, we won't stop sharing this hope of changed life to other people.

5. Test of Prayer (v.9). Most of us pray, but what do we pray for? Our prayers can determine whether Jesus is supreme in our life or not. Prayer must be a way of life. It is a constant

WORD (cont'd)

awareness of the presence of God. A Christ-centered prayer recognizes our helplessness and acknowledges God's supremacy in our lives. If Jesus is supreme in our lives, our most important concern is to know the will of God and to follow it. We cannot expect the blessings of God if we do not abide by His will. The more we obey God, the more we know about Him and the more we are filled with the knowledge of His will. As a byproduct of a prayerful life, we will walk worthy of Him, live a life that is pleasing to Him, bearing fruit and increasing in the knowledge of God (v.10).

- 6. Test of Joy (v.11).** In the midst of pain and problems, we are steadfast and patient with joy.

This can only happen when we are strengthened by the power of Jesus. We are joyful because we are aware of our eternal destiny. We are qualified in the inheritance of Jesus because God the Father has qualified us. Jesus rescued us, redeemed us, forgave our sins, and transferred us to the kingdom of light.

The presence and pursuit of these six evidences – faith, love, hope, fruit, prayer and joy – in our being and in our doing determine how supreme Jesus is in our lives. Only when we know God's will and live out God's power to do His will can we truly realize the supremacy of Christ in our lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. He Rules.** Who will be bowing down to Jesus someday according to **Colossians 1:16**? Is Jesus supreme to you?
- 2. Supremacy Test.** What are the evidences of the supremacy of Jesus in your life? In what area/s of the 6 tests cited in the discussion do you need to improve on?
- 3. Being and Doing.** What must you be and do so that people will see the supremacy of Jesus in you?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Be fruitful! One of the tests to know if Jesus is supreme in your life is through a changed life marked with the fruit of the Holy Spirit and the fruit of witnessing. What are the evident expressions which you are currently bearing fruit? List them down.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends