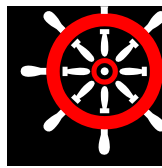


Who is at the helm?

Col 1:10-13 *“And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God, being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience, and joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves”*



Discuss in the larger group the following:

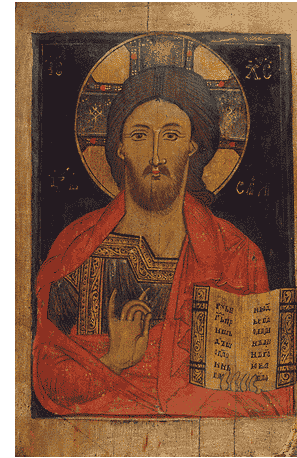
- Many people want to keep a foot in each 'kingdom'. Colossians seems to suggest this would be like one foot in two boats going different directions! Colossians presents one kingdom where people are redeemed, reconciled, qualified heirs another where people are alienated, hostile to God, slaves to darkness (1:20,21). Isn't life more "grey" than "black and white"? How does Christ's Lordship work out in real world for Christians now?
- What steps must a person take to submit to the Lordship of Christ Jesus? A simple prayer? Progressive change? Someone might share an example.
- If there were a royal commission into your life, how much of your decision making, spending, time, energy would be clearly identified as under the leadership of Christ?
- What implications are there in this message of Christ's Lordship for the church?...the nations?...the future?

Finish today's session by reading St. Augustine's statement about Lordship (insert)

Col 1:13-20

- 13 *For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,*
- 14 *in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*
- 15 *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*
- 16 *For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.*
- 17 *He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*
- 18 *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.*
- 19 *For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,*
- 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.*

The letter to the Colossians



Study No.2

Who is Christ?

Colossians 1:13-20

Col 1:1 *“Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, ...”*

Col 2:6 *“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord ...”*

Paul calls Jesus the “Christ”. Paul is the messenger (apostle) of “Christ Jesus”. “Christ”, or Messiah in Hebrew, was an important Old Testament term meaning “anointed one”. More generally, anointing on the head with oil was a sign of commissioning someone for service, mostly as a priest, prophet, or king. Especially in the psalms, the “anointed one” became a term that referred to “God’s king”. This is how kings were chosen and installed. Anointing with oil was a symbolic ritual which associated the candidate with God’s pleasure and purpose.

READ: 1 Samuel 9:14-17; 10:1; 16:1, 6, 10-13

The memorable “anointed one” of the Old Testament, of course, is David. The New Testament describes time and again how the followers of Jesus looked to key passages of the Old Testament to interpret what they observed of Him. Over the page, work in groups to search some of these key passages.

