

“All Created Through Him!”

Michael Battle asked, “What do we Christians do to counter this violence-filled world?” Battle answered his own question, **“We are to be more visible witnesses to Jesus’ reign. In order to do this, we must be willing to be human in an environment of vulnerability; that is, to understand that when we are in relationships with others our humanity is bound up in the other’s humanity.”**

Battle continued, “Desmond Tutu illustrates this by describing a light bulb that shone brightly and proudly. ‘[It] began to strut about arrogantly, quite unmindful of how . . . it could shine so brilliantly, thinking that it was all due to its own merit and skill.’ One day the light bulb is taken out of the socket and placed on a table. ‘Try as hard as it could, the light bulb could bring forth no light and brilliance . . . It had never known that its light came from the power station and that it had been connected to the dynamo by little wires and flexes that lay hidden and unseen and totally unsung.’” (Michael Battle, *The Other Kingdom*)

In order for us to “be more visible witnesses to Jesus’ reign”, we also need to better understand how it is that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is our King. The beginning of our Scripture pointed us in the right direction in **verses 11-12, “May you be made strong with all the strength which comes from his glorious power, so that you may be able to endure everything with patience.”** Up front, the author of the Letter to the Colossians connected the Reign of Christ with our need of his strength as we are forced to face and persevere through all the difficulties we experience in our daily lives. His strength is the source of our hope!

Rev. Dr. Alan Brehm connected the way we live our lives with the Reign of Christ, when he wrote, “I think perhaps one of the most destructive myths to define our lives is the notion that ‘it’s my life, I’ll live how I want.’” Brehm continued, “Despite the fact that the vast majority of us live that way, it is a formula for life that pretty much completely undermines all chance of real happiness. When we live from the standpoint of ‘it’s my life,’ we have to define who we are in competition with others. Our stubborn insistence on living as if ‘it’s my life’ leads us to the foolish thinking that if I’m going to win somebody’s got to lose. And that kind of win-lose scenario means everybody loses.” Brehm concluded, “The real truth of our existence is that we were made to live in community with God’s whole creation, which means we were made for a higher purpose than ‘it’s my life.’” (“It’s (Not) My Life” by Rev. Dr. Alan Brehm on <http://thewakingdreamer.blogspot.com>)

Our Scripture gets at that “higher purpose” in the last part of **verses 11-12 through verse 14, “And with joy give thanks to the Father, Who has made you fit to have your share of what God has reserved for His people in the Kingdom of Light. He rescued us from the power of darkness and brought us safe into the Kingdom of His Dear Son, by whom we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven.”** An important part of our higher purpose is to receive and live the New Faith Relationship with God – “the Kingdom of Light” – “the Kingdom of His Dear Son”! **We obtain this relationship with God and Jesus through God’s Grace – the Agape Self-Giving and Suffering Love of our Divine Parent.** We do not deserve it – God made us “fit” – our Creator has “rescued us” and “brought us safe” into God’s and Christ’s Kingdom. The Almighty Agape Lovingly did this for us as a Gift and we receive it without our meriting it.

The living out of this New Faith Relationship – Christ’s Kingdom continues as we intentionally give thanks to God for this Agape Love demonstrated in the Suffering and Death of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, and commit ourselves and our resources to the Reign of Christ. Colossians explained in **verses 15-17, “Christ is the visible likeness of the invisible God. He is the first-born Son, superior to all created things. For through him God created everything in heaven and on earth, the seen and the unseen things, including spiritual powers, lords, rulers, and authorities. God created the whole Universe through him and for him. Christ existed before all things, and in union with him all things have their proper place.”**

Kate Huey explained, “Paul is really providing the church in Colossae with a worldview here, a description of the cosmos from the smallest of things to the most incomprehensible, all taken up in God. Those are huge thoughts of tremendous significance, beyond our comprehension, and ancient worldviews differ from ours in many ways, particularly, but not only, because of scientific progress. No wonder, then, that we’re called to listen in every age for the Still-speaking God to lead us in new ways toward ancient truths, the good news of the gospel.” Huey continued, “‘It is the task of all Christians,’ Lewis Donelson writes, ‘to find the gospel in whatever worldview they hold. This is no easy task.’” Huey went on to say, “The author of the Letter holds together the huge ideas of how the cosmos was created and how it holds together with the everyday command to live as a community based on love. Perhaps that is the brilliance of this letter: it grounds our life together as a community of love in the power of Christ (hence, ‘Christ the King’).” (“Together in Christ” by Kate Huey on Weekly Seeds)

Although our Scripture puts the Reign of Christ in such a Universal context, there is also a very personal and important relationship between ourselves as part of the Church – the Body of Christ and Jesus Christ. We are told in **verse 18a**, ***“He is the head of his Body, the Church; he is the source of the Body’s life.”*** However, Huey also wrote, “The expansiveness of this hymn encompasses so much more than our individual lives, although we of course each have our place in God’s creation. We may feel overwhelmed with the problems we face that seem insolvable: war, hunger, poverty, and damage to the environment, as well as the ‘small,’ personal disasters of our lives (our personal disasters, understandably, never feel small to us). Scholars find here one of the roots of Christian hope, however, God in Christ is at work in the world, in the whole universe, and not just in our churches or our individual lives. We need to open our eyes, our vision, to this vast mystery, and trust in the goodness of the One who brought it all into existence.” Huey concluded, “If we think it’s all up to us, that we can solve the problems of our existence, or even control a bunch of unseen minor spirits swirling around us, then our worldview needs some serious expanding.” (“Together in Christ” by Kate Huey on Weekly Seeds)

The Reading then reminds us of the interrelatedness between Jesus Christ – God’s Son – “the Word” and his role in the Creation and the bringing about of Life and Light. It is said of Jesus in **verses 18b-20**, ***“He is the first-born Son, who was raised from death, in order that he alone might have the first place in all things. For it was by God’s Own Decision that the Son has in himself the full nature of God. Through the Son, then, God decided to bring the whole Universe back to Himself. God made peace through His Son’s blood on the cross and so brought back to Himself all things, both on earth and in heaven.”***

It is amazing, isn’t it? God’s Son both brought the Universe into being and all that is in it – including us, as well as, God’s Son has brought the Universe and all that is in it – including us back to God’s Self!

Colossians and the Gospel of John have much in common with reference to what they both said about Jesus Christ’s role in Creating the Universe, Life, and Light.

Given all this Good News about the Reign of Jesus Christ, will you and I be open to the New Faith Relationship and living in it – “the Kingdom of Light” and the Kingdom of God’s “Dear Son”? Will we give thanks to our Divine Parent for making us “fit”, rescuing “us from the power of darkness”, and bringing “us safe into the Kingdom”? Will we respond to the Almighty’s call for us to be agents of God’s Agape Love toward all people and Creation? Will we be “visible witnesses” to the Reign of Christ in our lives? Will you and I have hope and put our trust and faith in Christ’s power and agape love for us, even as we face difficulties and hardships, as we seek to agape love and minister to the needs of others? **On this Christ the King Sunday, let us recommit to putting our trust, faith, hope, and agape love into action!** Amen.