

# The Gospel According to Luke

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## THE HEAD OF THE BODY

## PART 11

### *Jesus' Rule*

READ: COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

## INTRODUCTION

The authority of Christ was something that the Pharisees often would challenge Him on. They sought to know by what authority He gave them commands and instructions (Luke 20:1-8). Paul, here in Colossians, addresses the authority with which Christ came. He is the firstborn over all creation and everything was created by Him. He is before all things and He holds everything together. He is the head of the Church and was able to reconcile all things to Himself. This means that He is the authority over all creation and that is something to be in awe of.

Many people question the authority of Christ and their objections are many. Most of the time, it is a lack of a desire to change and be changed into the image of God because that requires sacrifice. This means that a person cannot continue living in their sin when they come under His authority because that means they are subjecting themselves to what He says is right or wrong. Jesus makes it impossible to be your own master. He is either King or He isn't and either answer in our own personal lives has consequences.

The positive consequence of making Christ our King is that we experience being a child of God and all of those benefits. Yes, eternal life is a big selling point to many but, there is so much more to being called a child of God than just Heaven. We experience His love, grace, mercy and forgiveness which are some of the best things that He has to offer. The consequences of making yourself the king of your life are less positive. There is much punishment to be had when I try and justify my own life on my own. I am not able to forgive sins and so, if I try to make everything subject to my standards, I fall well short of the glory of God and must suffer those consequences. (Romans 3:23)

## ADVENT

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### *DISCUSSION QUESTIONS*

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1. What does it mean to give Christ the authority in your life? How do we do that daily?
2. Read Luke 20:1-8. What are the Pharisees complaining about with Jesus? How does He challenge them to change themselves?
3. What are some of the aspects of Christ's authority that Paul lays out in Colossians? Are there any areas that are left out of the list?
4. What is the effect of Christ being King over a person's life? How does that change the way that person lives?
5. Read Romans 3:23. What is the point of this verse? How does it encourage believers? Does it discourage anyone?

### *WRAP UP*

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We have to come to a place in our lives where we understand that Christ is the King over all creation and we are part of that creation. Every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord over all. The only difference will be if the knee is bowed in voluntary homage or in forceful recognition. One ends in rest, the other ends in eternal torment and judgement. We should choose wisely.