

Investing For Eternity – Part 3
Stewardship is Lordship
Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston NC
Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr.
January 25, 2026

Text: Colossians 1:15-19

Purpose: Jesus Christ is Lord of All. If we accept that, then we must acknowledge He is Lord of Creation, the purpose of Creation, the Sustainer of Creation, Lord of the Church, and Lord of our lives. Giving back to God reflects the Lordship Jesus Christ has in our life.

Shortly after starting a new diet, a guy was stopped in traffic just outside a bakery. The window displayed a host of goodies, and a wonderful aroma wafted out onto the street.



The guy was so tempted! He prayed, "Lord, it's up to you; if you want me to have a bakery treat, please create an open parking place for me."

And sure enough, on the eighth time around the block, there it was!¹



There are some movies you love to watch, and then there are others you would rather pass on. The kind of movies I tend to enjoy are the ones that involve a conflict or battle. It may be one of those battles from the Middle Ages or one from

the fictional realm of middle earth. Before many of those battles, a key leader, usually the king, will give a grand speech to give courage to and to rally the troops.

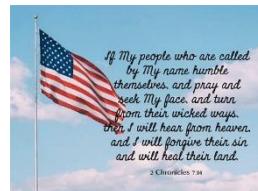
Sometimes in the battle, the king will die and the soldiers will turn their attention to the king's son and call out for this person to be their new king. In an act of submission, everyone gathered there, the mighty generals and the lowly peasants would bow down on one knee and lower their head in an act of humility and surrender to the king's sovereignty over their lives and their possessions.



Government
of the people, by the
people, for the people
... Abe Lincoln

I was thinking about that scene in the movie and compared it to how things are here in America. We as a nation have grown and flourished under the idea of a constitutional republic governed "by the people and for the people." I personally think democratically elected leaders is the best form of government to be able to do the best for the people.

For our form of government to work properly, its God-fearing citizens must step forward and be willing to put themselves forward and be elected and lead under Godly principles. Our founding fathers here in America did not create a government void of the idea that we as a nation are to live under the sovereignty of Almighty God. Sadly, as a nation we have lost this foundational principle of being under the sovereignty of God. We have become a god unto ourselves, our leaders have begun to act as if they are gods, and in many parts of our nation, it is adrift on a sea of destruction.



Because we have been tutored, nurtured, and guided by self-governed principles, the idea of being under the lordship of another is almost completely foreign to us.

- Our leaders do not submit to the Lordship of God.
- Our citizens do not submit to the rule and reign of our laws.
- In the workplace, individuals begrudgingly submit to their employers.
- In our homes, husbands and wives do not submit to one another, and children do not obey their parents.
- In the schools, students do not obey their teachers.

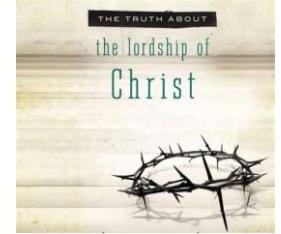


We stand back and wonder why our world is in the mess it is in. Every week I hear someone lament how awful the world has become. We have removed the foundational principle of being subject to the Lord under the banner of a constitutional republic. All of us are under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, even if we don't acknowledge it. The passage of scripture we read this morning from Colossians highlights for us the fact that Jesus Christ is Lord of Creation and Lord of the Church.

Colossians 1:15-19

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And 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 image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in him all things consist.



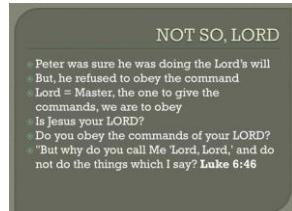
And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell. (1:15-19)



How important is it for us to realize Jesus Christ's supreme position over all things? (Very important!) If Jesus Christ is the Supreme Creator and Commander

of life, then shouldn't we also realize He has that same sovereignty over us as believers? If He is sovereign (and He is), then we need to make our stewardship under his sovereign control as well.

For most of us, we go through life trying to take care of it the best we can. We do not inquire of the Lord and ask him what He thinks we should do. We simply move forward until we cannot solve our problem and then, as a last resort, we turn to God for the answer. After reading the Bible, and seeking the input from the Lord, we get an impression as to what we are to do and we don't like the answer. Then we turn to the Lord and say, "Can you give me another option?"

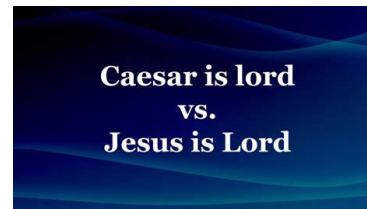


In Acts 10:14, the Lord clearly told Peter to do something that he had never done before. Peter was perplexed and resistant to do what the Lord was asking him to do. Peter's response to that was, "Not so, Lord!" If the Lord was truly the Lord of every area of Peter's life, he would have never said, "Not so, Lord!"

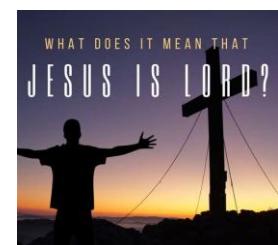


The same is true for us. If we say, "Not so, Lord!" when God asks us to do something, aren't we also rejecting the Lord to be Lord over our life? We cannot claim Jesus as Lord until we have made him Lord of all!

In Luke 6:46, Jesus said, "*Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?*" Our **actions** must match our **words** if Jesus is to be our Lord and Savior.



During the days of the Roman Empire, everyone was required to take an oath to Caesar. Each person was required to take a pinch of incense and place it on the altar declaring, "*Caesar is Lord.*" Many Christians during those days took their loyalty to Christ so seriously that they refused to name Caesar as their Lord. Instead, they willingly laid down their lives instead of denying Jesus Christ. They were so convinced that by acknowledging Caesar as Lord, they were denying and rejecting Jesus as their Lord. Their witness profoundly affected and emboldened many people. They knew where their total loyalty lay and they willingly shed their blood lost their lives for Christ.



Today, if we are to have an impact on our generation, we must be willing to make Jesus Christ Lord over our life once again. When we place Jesus Christ first and foremost, we become an encouragement to others to strengthen their commitment. If the Lordship of Christ is settled in our hearts and minds, then we will not have a problem with stewardship. That is, we make our time, talents, and treasures available to God to use as He desires.

When we say Jesus is Lord, there is no limit to what area God has control over.

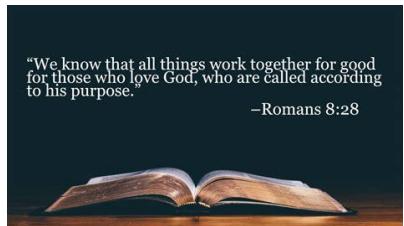
He is Lord over every creature, everything, everywhere, all the time.

He is Lord in heaven and on earth.

He is Lord over the angels, over Satan, and over the powers of darkness.

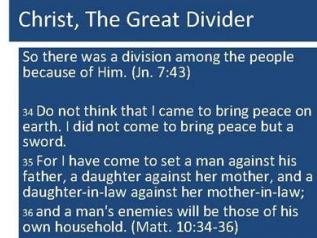
He is Lord over all principalities and governments.

He is Lord over everything, everywhere, all the time, eternally from the beginning and eternally past the end.

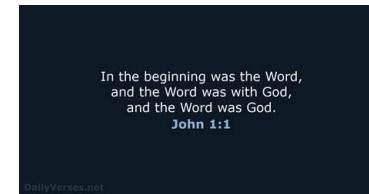


Sometimes there are events that occur in our world and we stop and wonder is God sovereign over this tragedy? When these events do happen, we need to hold on to the promise that “*all things work together for good for those that love the Lord and are called according to His purpose.*” (Romans 8:28) I simply don’t know why God allowed such tragedies to occur. I don’t know why cancer causes people to get sick and die. I don’t know why tragedies occur and innocent children die. I don’t know why hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, and volcanos cause such destruction. I do not understand all the reasons why there is hunger, famine, and war. All I know is, God is sovereign over all creation and we should show compassion and help as the Lord allows us.

Most people I have met that have not committed their life to Jesus Christ agree there is a God. They have a fuzzy idea of a Creator God. But when it comes time to really commit and make Jesus Christ



Lord, they back away quickly. Jesus Christ is a great divider among people. Either you are fully in agreement about Jesus or you are angry when others suggest Jesus is the answer for salvation and restoration with God. Jesus is a great divider among individuals.



Paul wrote the passage of scripture in Colossians to respond to a false teaching about Jesus. Some said that Jesus was only an emanation from God. First there was God, then after eons and eons, Jesus came, and then from Him came mankind. Somewhere between God and man was Jesus. They claim Jesus was a created being of God. This is very similar to Mormonism. Paul completely rejects this idea when he said, “*Jesus was the very image of the invisible God.*” John the Apostle in John 1 says, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God, and all things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*” (John 1:1) John 1:14 says, “*And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*”

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.” (John 1:14)

The Colossians were caught in a culture where some wanted to accept Jesus but not accept Jesus’ Lordship. Isn’t that the way it is today? Yes, we want Jesus, but “let’s not get too radical about our faith commitment.” “Let’s not make Jesus Lord.” How ridiculous! If Jesus is not **Lord of All** then He is **not Lord at all!**

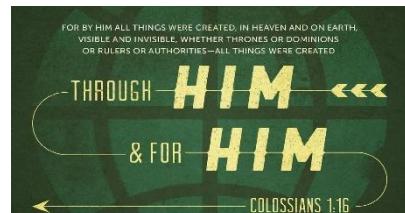
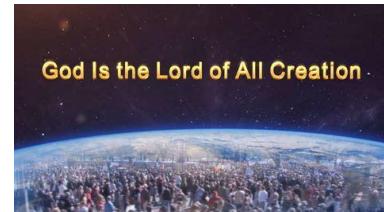
In just a few verses in Colossians, Paul asserts the truth about Jesus that we too should embrace and understand.

First, Jesus Christ is Lord of Creation²

Paul starts out where most believers can accept. Jesus Christ is Lord of Creation. Verse 16 says, “*By Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible.*” John 1:3 says, “*All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*” Many atheists and agnostics have rejected God as Creator and instead, embraced the theory of evolution. Those scientists that embrace evolution reject the idea that God could be the creative force behind the world in which we live. God’s word clearly teaches that Jesus was the creative force that made everything – the visible and invisible. Ken Hamm, the founder of *Answers in Genesis* has repeatedly said the foundational aspect of the Lordship of Christ starts with a proper understanding of Creation.

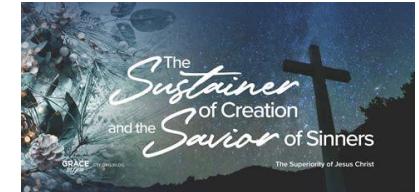
We see Jesus Christ is the Goal of Creation

A second aspect of creation mentioned in verse 16 says, “*All things were created through Him and for Him.*” Not only was Jesus Christ the Creator of all things, it was created for Him. All of creation was made by Him for Him. That means each of us were created for a purpose, and the chief end of man is to glorify God.



Jesus Christ is also the Sustainer of Creation

A third aspect of creation includes the thought that Jesus Christ is the sustainer of all creation. Jesus made it, it was made for Him, and it is also sustained – or kept going – by the power of Christ. Verse 17 says, “*in Him all things consist.*” It is as if Jesus is keeping all things held together in the entire universe, all the time, everywhere present and sustaining His creation.



That means if Jesus took a break from His creation, it could not sustain itself, by itself. It would move towards destruction quickly. Jesus Christ is the Creator and Sustainer of His Creation. This world is not ours; it is His.

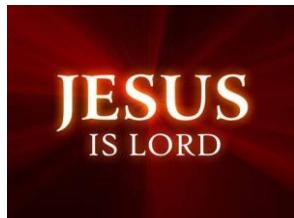
Twila Paris in her song, “We Bow Down” says ...

*You are Lord of Creation and Lord of my life,
Lord of the Land and the seas.
You were Lord of the heavens before there was time,
And Lord of all Lords You will be!*

ACAPPELLA We Bow Down Lyrics

You are Lord of creation
And Lord of my life
Lord of the land and the seas
You were Lord of the heavens
Before there was time
And Lord of all Lords you will be
Chorus:

Atheists, agnostics, and antagonists have leveled their heaviest attacks on the idea that God is creator of the world. There seems to be a sense of urgency among evolutionists to stake the claim that we simply evolved from lower forms of animal life. If we evolved and just “happened” to come into being by chance, then there is no God to be accountable to. If we evolved “*ex nihilo*” “from nothing” into something, then we do not have to give an account of our life to our Creator.

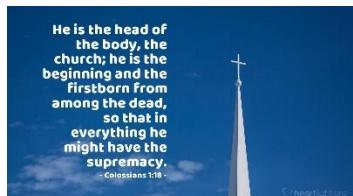


But IF there is a God who created us, and there is, then we acknowledge God's sovereignty over our life. If He is Lord of all, then that includes me and you!

When Jesus walked on this earth, the winds were obedient to His command when He said, "*Peace, be still.*" Jesus was sovereign over all when He turned water into the best wine at a wedding. Jesus was Lord over all when He healed the lame, the blind, the sick, and the paralyzed. Jesus even brought individuals back from the dead. His Lordship even extended to those that were dead. Jesus said He had power to lay down His life and He had power to raise it back up again – and He DID!

*You are Lord of Creation and
Lord of my life,
Lord of the Land and the seas.
You were Lord of the heavens
before there was time,
And Lord of all Lords You will be!*

Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Church



Verse 18 extends the Lordship of Christ from Creation to the Church. It says, "*And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.*" Jesus Christ is the head of the universal church of all ages. If we have properly put Jesus Christ as the head of our lives, it will be

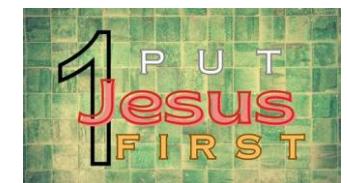
demonstrated in what we do as a church and the ministries we will be involved with.



The head is so very important to the life of the body. If our head doesn't work properly, our hands, feet, legs, arms are useless. But if the head is truly in control, then the body will be operating as it should. If Christ is head of our lives, then we will be operating as we should. If Christ is head of our church, then you and I who are the hands, feet, legs and arms, will be working together for a common good that Glorifies God and gives Glory to Christ, our head.

Every activity in and through our church should Glorify God and build up His kingdom. If those ministries we are supporting are not glorifying God or building up His kingdom, then we seriously need to reevaluate our support no matter how good the program.

Jesus Christ is before everything. We need to put Him first in everything in our life and our church. He should have the preeminence.



The church at Colossi was having some problems with the issue of making Christ the head of the church. Some in the church were led astray through the worshipping of angels (2:18) and in following human traditions (2:22). They had lost their focus and Paul needed to remind them to "*put off anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, and filthy language.*" (3:8) He needed to remind them to stop their lying tongue.

They had lost their adoration for the head of the Church – Jesus Christ. They substituted another in Christ’s place. Colossi was losing their power and place because they had not made Jesus Lord in the Church. Our church can lose its place if we don’t make Jesus Christ Lord.

If Jesus Christ is the head of the church, He must have sovereign control over this church. Your pastor is under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. The deacons and trustees serve under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Each member is to submit to the Lordship of Jesus as we submit to one another.

When it comes to stewardship, we need to turn to God and ask His guidance.

- Lord, how can I as an individual give of my best to You?
- How can my gift be one that is pleasing unto You?
- What would You have me to do in the area of stewardship?
- How can we as a church be good stewards of what you have entrusted us with?

As we all make Jesus Christ Lord, our church will be magnified because it reflects our love for the One that gave it all so that we could live eternally with Him.
Let our song be

*You are Lord of Creation and Lord of my life,
Lord of the Land and the seas.
You were Lord of the heavens before there was time,
And Lord of all Lords You will be!*

We Bow Down

You are Lord of creation and Lord of my life.
Lord of the land and the sea!
You were Lord of the heavens,
Before there was time,
Lord of all Lords You will be!

We bow down and we worship You,
Lord
We bow down and we worship You,
Lord
We bow down and we worship You,
Lord
Lord of all Lords You will be!

We bow down and we worship You, Lord
We bow down and we worship You, Lord
We bow down and we worship You, Lord
Lord of all Lords You will be

LET US PRAY

Notes:

¹ Micky’s Funnies, *A Diet Funny*, Jan. 15, 2026

² Outline from David Jeremiah’s Investing for Eternity

