

**DAILY READINGS**

Sunday	Ephesians 1:22-23
Monday	Colossians 1:15-23; Psalm 102:1-4; Proverbs 20:10-12
Tuesday	Romans 12:9-13:7; Psalm 102:5-12; Proverbs 20:13-16
Wednesday	Romans 13:8-14; Psalm 102:13-19; Proverbs 20:17-19
Thursday	Romans 14:1-12; Psalm 102:20-28; Proverbs 20:20-22
Friday	Romans 14:13-15:7; Psalm 103:1-5; Proverbs 20:23-25
Saturday	Romans 15:8-13; Psalm 103:6-12; Proverbs 20:26-28

**DEVOTIONAL: READ EPHESIANS 1:22-23**

When we think of Christ, we often look at His death and resurrection as His saving work on our behalf but fail to see His ongoing work on our behalf after the stories of the Gospels end. Christ came to reclaim that which had been lost; where sin entered and disrupted, Christ stood to restore order and authority. His sacrificial act of love and obedience made peace with God possible for us; His resurrection from the dead and supreme victory over death proved that He is the Lord over everything and that lordship continues today.

In his letter to the church at Ephesus, Paul is clearly establishing the authority of Christ, not only over the whole of creation, but more specifically, His authority over the Church as we know it today. As the Lord of creation and the Head of the Church, His blessings go

beyond the grave, extending from this moment on into eternity. Every day, He is making all things new and bringing us one day closer to His return, where He will fully restore all that sin has tried to ruin.

Christ is still active as Head of the Church today. This means that Christ rules over the Church by His Word and by His Spirit. The Church cannot exist without Christ and we cannot hope for future restoration without recognizing Him as Lord of all. As we live between His resurrection and His return, may we daily submit to Jesus just as He submitted to His Father and live in the freedom He brings today. We must recognize Him as not only the Christ of the cross, and the Christ of the Second Coming, but also the Christ that stands as Head today.

## REFLECTION

What does it mean for Christ to be Head of the Church today? What does it mean for Christ to be “Lord of all” in your life specifically?

In what ways have you limited the role of Christ in your life?

If Christ is Head of the Church, why is it important that we are committed to the local church? How can you be more committed to your church?

## DISCUSSION

What do you find most attractive about Christianity/the Person of Christ? What do you find least attractive about Christianity/the Person of Christ?

## PRAYER

Jesus Christ, You are over all things, including me. I pray that Your Spirit would rule over my life, that everything I do would be honoring to You. Lead me in my work. Lead my family. Lead me in how I spend my time and my money. Lead me in the way I serve, love other people, and interact with the church.

God, You are Head of the Church. We are humble servants to You and Your mission; please let nothing get in the way of that. Remove our pride and anything that makes the church become about our agenda rather than Yours. Remove any disunity among Your children, and help us to love one another in a way that points people to You. Remove any barriers between our church and those who don't know You. Lead us by Your Spirit as we seek to follow You.

Help me to be committed to You, committed to my brothers and sisters in Christ, and committed to seeing the family of believers grow continually. Amen.