

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

Ephesians 1:20-21

The Rule of the Ascended Lord

by Bob DeWaay

July 15, 2018

The Supremacy of Christ

Ephesians 1:20, 21 (LEB)
which he has worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavenly places above all rule and authority and power and lordship and every name named, not only in this age but also in the coming one,

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 1

Ascension and Heavenly Session

Psalm 110:1 (NASB)
The Lord says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet."

- [Jesus applied Psalm 110:1 to Himself \(Luke 20:42; Luke 22:69\)](#)
- [Acts 2:34-36 links this to the ascension](#)
- [Hebrews 1:3 speaks of the "radiance of His glory" and also references Psalm 110:1](#)

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 2

Christ's Heavenly Enthronement

Ephesians 1:20 (LEB)

which he has worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavenly places

- "Heavenly places" is *epouranios*, which, is *ouranos* (heaven) with *epi* prefix (upon)
- According to Ephesians 6:12, there are wicked beings in this realm
- This is not an earthly, political enthronement

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

3

The Authority of Christ

Ephesians 1:21a (NASB)

far above all rule and authority and power and dominion,

- Paul uses four terms for power of authorities
- "Far above" shows superiority to the evil powers feared by pagans
- Paul's terminology was well known by Jewish and Gentile people in Ephesus

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

4

Subjugated Names of Evil

Ephesians 1:21b (NASB)

and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

- There is no exhaustive list of names, and, there does not need to be
- Christ has authority over all powers— whatever their name may be
- The kingship of Christ has no term limit!

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

5

Implications and Applications

- The ascended Christ rules from heaven
- The truth of “Christ alone” includes His superiority, sufficiency and supremacy

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 6

Christ Rules From Heaven

Colossians 3:1, 2 (NET)

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, **seated at the right hand of God**. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

- “If” is a 3rd class conditional – “since”
- “Seek” is imperative and “things above” are the promises of God in Christ

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 7

The Superiority of Christ

Colossians 2:9 (ESV)

For in him the whole **fullness** of deity dwells bodily

- This is why we should avoid false teaching from and about the *stoicheia* (vs. 8)
- No created being of any sort has “fullness of deity;” bodily refers to the ascended Lord
- Christ is superior to religious traditions, philosophy and the hostile powers

Gospel of Grace Fellowship ggf.church 8

The Sufficiency of Christ

Colossians 2:10a (ESV)

and you **have been filled** in him

- Believers are in Christ and therefore have been filled (a word play with “fullness” of verse 9)
- Christ is sufficient, and we need not look elsewhere for our spiritual well-being
- 2Peter 1:3 tells us that we have everything pertaining to life and godliness

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

9

The Supremacy of Christ

Colossians 2:10b (ESV)

who is the head of all rule and authority

- Since we are in Christ and Christ has all power and authority, we are safe
- This does not mean that Christ expects us to interact with the spirits to express His rule
- This does not mean that Christ expects us to take political power over people on His behalf

Gospel of Grace Fellowship

ggf.church

10
