

*A Discovery of the Supremacy of Christ  
in the New Testament*

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Instructor: John Piper

How Is the Discovery Made ?

How Can We Have a Well-Founded  
Conviction that He is Supreme?

## Psalm 19:1

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

## Romans 1:19–21

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. <sup>21</sup> For although they knew God, they did not glorify him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 14:8–9

Philip said to [Jesus], “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.”<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

## 2 Corinthians 4:3–6

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.<sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.<sup>5</sup> For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake.<sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

## John 7:15–18

The Jews therefore marveled, saying, “How is it that this man has learning, when he has never studied?”<sup>16</sup> So Jesus answered them, “My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.<sup>17</sup> If anyone’s will is to do God’s will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.<sup>18</sup> The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood.

## John 5:42–44

But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. <sup>43</sup> I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. <sup>44</sup> How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?

Christ Is the Supreme Purpose  
for Creation and Redemption  
from All Eternity



## Colossians 1:15–20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.<sup>16</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.<sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.<sup>19</sup> For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,<sup>20</sup> and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

## Ephesians 3:8–11

To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,<sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,<sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.<sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Ephesians 1:4–6

God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love <sup>5</sup> he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

## 2 Timothy 1:9–10

God saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,<sup>10</sup> and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

## Revelation 13:8

All who dwell on earth will worship the Beast, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.

## Romans 16:25–27

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup> but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup> to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

# Christ Is the Supreme Authority in Law and Judgment

(Matthew)

## C. S. Lewis and H. Richard Niebuhr vs. the Old Liberals

Old Liberalism found Jesus to be a great ethical teacher:

the fatherhood of God,  
the brotherhood of man,  
and the ethic of love.

Niebuhr (1894-1962) described their view:

“A God without wrath brought men without sin into a Kingdom without judgment through the ministrations of a Christ without a Cross.”



C. S. Lewis wrote:

I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about him: I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept his claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell. (*Mere Christianity*)

## The Sermon on the Mount, a favorite source for Old Liberalism.

- “Blessed are the peacemakers” (Matt. 5:9)
- “Whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them” (Matt. 7:12)
- “Judge not, that you not be judged” (Matt. 7:1)
- “Love your enemies” (Matt. 5:44)
- “Your Father knows what you need before you ask him” (Matt. 6:8).

Matthew 5:17

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. (Matthew 5:17)

Matthew 5:22, 28, 32, 34, 39, 44

Six times in Matthew 5, Jesus stunningly confronted Scripture and tradition with his supremely authoritative words, “You have heard that it was said, But I say to you.”

## Matthew 7:21-23

Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?” And then will I declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.”

**Christ Is the Supreme Ruler  
over Demons and the Natural World  
(Mark)**

## Mark 1:27

They were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the *unclean spirits*, and they obey him.”

## Mark 4:39-41

And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup> He said to them, “Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?” <sup>41</sup> And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the *wind* and the *sea* obey him?”

Mark 6:56

And wherever he came, in villages, cities, or countryside, they laid the *sick* in the marketplaces and implored him that they might touch even the fringe of his garment. And as many as touched it were made well.

## Mark 6:41-44

And taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples to set before the people. And he divided the two fish among them all. <sup>42</sup> And they all ate and were satisfied. <sup>43</sup> And they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. <sup>44</sup> And those who ate the *loaves* were five thousand men.



## Mark 6:48–52

And about the fourth watch of the night Jesus came to them, walking on the sea. He meant to pass by them, <sup>49</sup> but when they saw him walking on the sea they thought it was a ghost, and cried out, <sup>50</sup> for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, “Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid.” <sup>51</sup> And he got into the boat with them, and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, <sup>52</sup> for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

Sum: demons, wind, sea, sickness, loaves → walk on water.

# Christ Is the Supreme Ruler Over Life and Death and Details (James)

## James 4:13–16

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”—<sup>14</sup> yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.<sup>15</sup> Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.”<sup>16</sup> As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.

# Christ Is Supreme Over Forgiveness of Sins and Repentance from Sinning

(Luke)

## Luke 5:20–25

When he saw their faith, he said, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.”

<sup>21</sup> And the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?” <sup>22</sup> When Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answered them, “Why do you question in your hearts? <sup>23</sup> Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? <sup>24</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the man who was paralyzed—“I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.” <sup>25</sup> And immediately he rose up before them and picked up what he had been lying on and went home, glorifying God.

## Luke 22:31–34

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, <sup>32</sup> but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” <sup>33</sup> Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”

Christ Is Supreme as God,  
as Authority over His Own Life and Death,  
and as All-Satisfying

(John)

## John 1:1–3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

## John 8:57–58

So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?” <sup>58</sup> Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.”



## John 10:17–18

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.”

## John 4:10–14

Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

## John 7:37–39

On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink.”<sup>38</sup>

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ ”<sup>39</sup> Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 6:35

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

Christ Is Supreme in His Mission:  
Calling His Emissaries,  
Guiding their Movements,  
Making them Agents of Supernatural Work,  
Saving His Elect.

(Acts)

## Acts 9:3–16

[Saul] approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. <sup>4</sup> And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” <sup>5</sup> And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” And he said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup> But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” . . . <sup>10</sup> Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision . . . “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel. <sup>16</sup> For I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.”

## Acts 16:6–7

And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. <sup>7</sup> And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

## Acts 26:17–18

I am sending you <sup>18</sup> to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'



## Acts 16:14

One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.

## Acts 13:47-48

[Paul, citing Isaiah 49:6:] “I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth.”<sup>48</sup> And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

Christ Is Supreme as the Price and Ground  
of all Good that Comes to God's  
Undeserving People

(Romans)

## Romans 8:31–37

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? . . . <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

## Romans 3:23–26

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,<sup>24</sup> and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,<sup>25</sup> whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.<sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

# Christ Is Supreme in the Humility of Servanthood

(Philippians)

## Philippians 2:3–8

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

# Christ Is the Supreme Encouragement as We Come to Die

(1 Thessalonians)

## 1 Thessalonians 5:9–11

God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>10</sup> who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.<sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.



# Christ Is the Supreme Avenger on Those Who Do Not Obey the Gospel

(2 Thessalonians)

## 2 Thessalonians 1:6–10

God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you,<sup>7</sup> and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels<sup>8</sup> in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.<sup>9</sup> They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,<sup>10</sup> when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.

# Christ Is the Supreme Perfecter of Those Who Are Being Perfected

(Hebrews)

## Hebrews 10:12–14

When Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, <sup>13</sup> waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. <sup>14</sup> For by a single offering he has perfected (τετελείωκεν) for all time those who are being sanctified (τοὺς ἁγιαζομένους).

# Christ Is the Supreme Keeper of His People

(Jude)

## Jude 1:24–25

Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy,<sup>25</sup> to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

**Christ Is Supremely Worthy  
to be Worshipped  
(Revelation)**

## Revelation 5:9–12

And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation,<sup>10</sup> and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,<sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”



Therefore, Let Us Live  
to See and Savor and Show  
the Supremacy of Christ!

## Philippians 1:20–21

It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be glorified [*shown to be supreme in beauty and worth*] in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup> For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.