

Psalm 2: 1-12; “Kiss the Son”, “Christ’s Passion, Death, and Resurrection, as noted in the Psalms, and Remembered”, A Communion Sermon, Delivered on March 1st, 2015, by Pastor Paul Rendall, in the Afternoon Worship Service.

It is indeed a vain thing for anyone to oppose the advancement of the King of Kings, our Lord Jesus Christ to the highest place of honor in their life. For He has been advanced by God the Father, through raising Him from the dead, and seating Him at His right hand; to the place of highest rule and authority in heaven and on the earth. This afternoon I would like to speak to you of the greatness of the grace that has been given to us; that we have been enabled to “Kiss the Son”.

A kiss, in the sense that we are speaking of it here, means not only submission to Christ, but it also means a positive affection for Him as well. We have come to the Lord’s Table once again in order to give our King the affection of our hearts, as well as our allegiance once again. We want to recount the triumphs of His dying love in what He did in going to the cross. We want to remember and glory in, the reality of the grace which He has given to us, when God granted us repentance and the forgiveness of all of our sins.

1st of all - We were once a part of the people of the World who does not believe, and who does not want Christ to rule over us. (Verses 1-6)

The question is raised for us here in verse 1, “Why do the heathen nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing?” The fulfillment of these words, in the immediate sense, is what happened to Christ when He was falsely accused and then tried and found “guilty” of saying that He was the Son of God. The Jewish leaders thought that He was blaspheming. He was simply telling them the truth which they should have long before received. It was after they had falsely tried Him, then, that the Lord Jesus was crucified by authority of the Roman government under Pontius Pilate, and the Roman soldiers put Him to death.

Turn with me over to Acts 4: 25 and you will see how the Apostles thought about these verses that we are looking at. These words were spoken by “the united voice” of the disciples, who were prayer together after Peter and John were released from the custody of the chief priests and the scribes. After these rulers had questioned them about healing the lame man at the gate Beautiful in the temple, they bore a united witness to the Lord Jesus. They told them that it was by His power and name that this man had become strong. And so, the chief priests threatened them and warned them not to preach or speak at all in the name of Jesus.

They responded in this way: “Lord You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: ‘Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things?’ “The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ.” “For truly against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gather together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.”

That is the immediate fulfillment of these verses of Psalm 2. But, in order that we may apply it to ourselves here today, we need to see that it was not just the Jewish chief priests, and the scribes who were against the purpose of God to make Jesus Christ the King of Israel. It was not just the Pharisees who raged against God and Christ trying to insist that this Man would not rule over them. It was not just the Roman soldiers and Pilate who were against God’s plans and purposes and Christ’s righteous rule. It is also a fact of history, that over the course of every generation since Christ’s first coming, that all the peoples of the nations of the world and their kings, all who do not know God, that all of them “rage” against Him if they haven’t been given grace to submit to Him.

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us." This is exactly how each of us were before conversion if we think carefully about it. We considered Christ's ruling over us as a threat to our supposed freedom to do what we pleased, and we were content to live without God. We did not come to know for, some time, that we were without hope in the world. We were at enmity with God and we took counsel together with others who were in unbelief, to assure ourselves that ours was the best way to live, the right way to live in our own eyes.

If anyone told us of the commands of God, or how we were breaking them, or how we should be keeping them, we saw it as their wanting to bind us up. We did not want to take the bonds of a Christian. We would break those cords and cast them away from us. But, thanks be to God, because of Jesus' death on the cross for us, things have changed so much for the better. We did take the bonds of a Christian. Turn with me to Hosea 11: 4. Here it says: "He drew us with gentle cords, with bands of love, and I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck." You see, that even though we used to be those who raged against God's rule; that He drew those of us who now believe in Him, to Himself, with gentle cords, and with bands of love. It is His gentleness which makes us great.

Turn with me over to Psalm 18, verse 35 – "You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand (that is Christ Himself) has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great." "You enlarged my path under me, so that my feet did not slip." How else would we ever have come to Christ, were it not for God's gentleness with us? How else would we have ceased our raging against Him? How could we stand before Him and walk before Him unless Christ holds us up? How could we walk before Him, knowing what was the right thing to do, and how we should do it; unless He enlarged our path under our feet? Our great God and Father has, by His grace, taken away all of our resistance to the gospel by showing us our need to be saved. He has turned our hearts towards Christ and He keeps turning them to behold His Son. He took the yoke of sin from our neck.

It is our faith in Christ that has become unto us, the shield of our salvation. Every person has a yoke to bear. You either bear the yoke of sin and bondage as an unbeliever, or you bear Christ's easy and light yoke of freedom to do what is right. Matthew 11: 28 and 29 – "Come to Me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." An unbeliever has not come to understand this yet. Life has many burdens and cares attached to it, because of our sin, and the sins of other people.

We live in a fallen world. Nothing can really be done to really change that, or ease, or remove these burdens unless we believe in Jesus Christ. If we had been left to continue in our unbelief and rebellion, we would have found ourselves left under the wrath of God; with God laughing and holding us in derision. But now we have been shown great mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. He has said unto us, "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you shall find rest for your souls." And so we did take it up. And now we find that we want to do God's will, and to submit to His good government over our lives.

God is well-pleased with Jesus, and so now He can look upon us with favor. God was well-pleased in His great love, to punish Jesus, and so now He will not punish us. Out of His great love for you, He may discipline you when He sees that you need it. But when He does that, He does it out of His great love for you; not because His wrath and anger are upon you. No, that wrath and anger has all been removed at the cross. You should also remember at this time that a great part of what God's showing you His mercy and favor to you meant, was His taking away

your stony heart, the heart that raged against His ruling over you. And more specifically, the idea of Christ reigning over you. Previously you did not care for this idea, but now you kiss the Son. This means that when you partake of the Lord's Supper, you are publicly recognizing, not only that He is your priest to save you and intercede for you; you also recognize His authority as King to rule over you.

You are saying that you joyfully submit to His governance of your life. You love and worship Him for fulfilling the righteous requirements of God's Law. You love and worship Him because He fulfilled all the commandments of God's holy law perfectly, and He suffered for your sins. Therefore, out of love, as you come to this table, you will be joyfully reaffirming to Christ, the submission of your heart, that you want to wear His yoke. You want to do and keep His commandments by faith; You will strive with all of your heart to abide in His love, and abide in His Word.

2nd – You believe that to kiss the Son means that you have come to know the reality of Jesus Christ, risen from the dead. (Verses 7 and 8)

Verse 7 says, "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'" "Ask of Me, and I will give you the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession." There was a decree that was made by God the Father and God the Son before time began; that the Son, begotten of the Father in Eternity past, would also take upon Himself human nature, and would live among men, and then He would willingly suffer for our sins and rise from the dead. He was begotten in eternity as the Son of God, and He would be begotten from the dead as Son of God and Son of Man; the first born of a new creation, by His resurrection from the dead.

All people who have sincerely believed, or will believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins and for a heart that submits, fall under that decree. All of those who are unable to understand the gospel because of mental incapacity and thus cannot choose to receive or reject Him; these also shall have the blood of Christ applied to them, if God so wills it; that they might also be saved. Jesus is the helper of the helpless and the only One who is able to save those who cannot save themselves. You may remember Romans Chapter 5, verse 6. "For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die." "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Certainly this is good news to the greatest of sinners, and to the weakest of mankind. For not only will they be saved from Adam's sin and their own sins, but they shall know the power of His resurrection working in their lives according to all the needs, both spiritual and physical, that they have. If they are weak they are made strong in their weakness. If they die, they shall be raised from the dead in great power and glory. Listen to verses 9 and 10 of Romans 5, "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him." "For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." That is His resurrection life that you are saved by. These are very sure mercies which are, and will be given to all who believe in Jesus.

Listen to Acts 13: 27-34 – "For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him." "And though they found no cause for death in Him, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death." "Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb." "But God raised Him from the dead. He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people." "And we declare to you glad tidings - that promise which was made to the fathers." "God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up

Jesus.” “As it is written in the second Psalm: ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You.’ “And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: ‘I will give you the sure mercies of David.’”

You see; there is a reality of Christ’s resurrection in our hearts today that is speaking to us, as well, and God is saying, “You now, have the power to cleanse yourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit and to perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord,” as it says in 2nd Corinthians 7: 1. You now have the life of Christ in your soul, and that life is pushing the sin out, putting it off, and putting it to death. What greatness of power there is in Christ, to deal with your sins; what grace, what joy and peace that we have in believing in Him. Does Christ’s death make you sad for your sins? Then Christ’s life and presence ought to be making you glad that He triumphed over sin and death. His power to bring joy and gladness to the heart which has been burdened by sin, ought not to be denied.

Do not let unbelief rob you of the joy which Christ died to purchase. What Christ has done for you once as a sinner, and now as one of His saints, ought always to be believed; that you might become stronger in your faith, and stronger in your service to Him. Kiss the Son today, and give Him thanks as you approach the Lord’s Table and partake of the emblems of His life given for you; His flesh and His blood so that you might really know His power working in your life, and know His presence with you in all of your following after Him. No matter what you are going through today, this remembrance that He is raised from the dead should make you glad today. You know that because He was raised, that He has triumphed over sin and death; and so He will do for you. Truly this ought to make you glad, even full of joy right now. Let’s come forward now and prepare ourselves to receive His blessing in the Supper.

3rd - To “Kiss the Son” means that you want to be wise in the way that you live.

These unbelieving kings are being warned to be wise, with the wisdom that leads to salvation. Verse 9 says of those who will actively oppose and reject Christ’s kingdom’s advance, “You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.” “Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth.” “Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling.” “Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little.” “Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.”

Here we have a warning and a blessing. A warning for those who will not “Kiss the Son.” And a blessing for those who will “Kiss” Him. To “Kiss” Christ is spoken of here as the wise thing to do. It is a very wise thing to do; to trust in Christ in the way of submitting to all that He says, and receiving all that He has done for sinners like you and me. When we come to this table we are saying that we want to be wise with the wisdom that is found in Christ; we want to be instructed by His life, His death, His resurrection, and by His Spirit working in us in relation to the Word of God. We want to live in the Bible way. We want to serve the Lord with holy fear, and rejoice with trembling lest we find ourselves not walking worthy of that holy calling wherewith He has called us; not living up to all the grace and truth that has been given to us. Those of this text are told to “Kiss the Son,” lest they perish in the way.

You and I who have come to Christ’s table also “Kiss the Son” in fond and affectionate remembrance of what He has done for us. We have received the atonement. We have received the reconciliation. We no longer fear God’s wrath, because our faith in Christ has brought peace between God and ourselves. We are here; thankful not only to remember what He has done on the cross for us; but we are thankful for what He has done and is doing in our hearts every day. We do rejoice with trembling that we can “Kiss the Son”. Now, before we partake this Supper, we should ask ourselves: Have I confessed all of my sins which I have committed in the last month since I last partook of this Supper; those that I know of?

Have I kept short accounts with God? Have I wrestled with all the issues of why I committed those sins, and pleaded with God for the grace to forsake them entirely? Have I pleaded with

God to make me stronger and more faithful in my obedience to His Word? Have I asked Him that I might follow Him in all humility and learn to do His will in everything, no matter what it might cost me? Then I think that you are ready to partake of the Supper. As a believer in Christ, Christ bids you come and dine with Him now. Do not fear that somehow He will not be able to change you and make you more like Himself in those areas in which you now see yourself as weak. "He is able to save to the uttermost all those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." It is Christ's wounds which plead for you before the Father's throne; that you who are weak and sinful shall be changed and become more like your perfect and holy Savior.