

Head Over All Things

By Pastor Christopher Seah

And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,
(Ephesians 1:22 ESV)

Our world seems to be in a hurry to get over with Christmas. But the fact that Christmas begins the New Year is instructive. It reminds us that we are to spend the rest of the year exploring the unspeakably monumental Gift that we were given at Christmas—the gift of the Son of God himself. Each year, we are to live out of the Father’s Gift to us. Each year, we are to investigate the infinite treasures that God has bestowed upon us in our Savior.

How is the Lord Jesus a treasure to us? What is the nature of the Gift that is Christ? Ephesians 1:22 reveals one facet of the Gift. It says that Jesus is “head over all things,” and that he is given as such “to the church.” Simply put, Jesus Christ as universal head is God’s Christmas gift to the Church.

The headship of Jesus Christ carries at least two major dimensions. First, Jesus is head in the sense that *he is ruler and king over all*. “And he put all things under his feet,” the Scripture says. These days, the idea of being given a ruler is not popular in the modern (or postmodern) world. Many would most certainly not consider it a thoughtful Christmas gift. We don’t like being told what to do. We don’t like having people put rules and orders around our lives. But in the ancient world—the world that God used to reveal his truths to us—the ruler was life, strength, and everything good to his people. He was the nucleus that held the realm together. He was the sun around whom the universe of society revolved. By his laws, the king ensured peace and order in his cosmos. By his strength, the king defended his realms from their enemies. Jesus is not a king in the modern constitutional monarchy sense. He is a king in that ancient imperial sense; the sense of absolute ruler, emperor, and lawgiver.

Second, as head of his people, *Jesus embodies their future, both corporately and individually*. Just as Adam sinned and brought down his race, Jesus obeyed God perfectly and secured the future of his people, the Church. First Corinthians 15:22: “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.” Now that Christ our head has been raised to the heavenly places to dwell in the glory of God, so too will each of his people someday. Ephesians 2 says that God “made us alive together with Christ...and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” (2:6-7). Jesus’ headship is not simply about rule and oversight. It is also about representation. The divine Monarch represents each of his people in himself. His destiny is theirs also.

The headship of Jesus is therefore kingship and priesthood rolled into one. Jesus is our priestly king and kingly priest. His headship is necessary for our wellbeing. His lordship ensures our salvation from sin and victory over the powers of evil. In his royal person, each of us has been given to the Lord God for eternity.

May this year find us continuing in our quest to know our Lord. How weak and trivial are the world’s treasures in comparison to our great Sovereign, Jesus the Messiah. He is the Heart of the world, the Temple of the eternal God, the everlasting Father of his kingdom, the All Lord of the heavens and the earth, very God of very God—the Gift of inexhaustible value. Let us trust in him for all our good. Let us find ourselves in him.