

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

“You’re not the boss of me.” Have you ever heard those words before? Have you ever said those words before? I’m guessing if you have a sibling, you’d probably have to answer yes. Siblings hate being told what to do by other siblings. They don’t want to answer to anyone but Mom and Dad.

You know, on a grander scale, hasn’t that been what many wars between countries or rebellions within countries have come down to? For one reason or another, maybe some one group of people didn’t like some of the laws. Maybe one of the countries hated having another country ruling over them. And so they fought back. In effect, in those wars, there was one said basically saying, “You’re not the boss of me.”

Today, we just hate having others telling us what to do. The thought of someone else being our boss, or ruling over us, we just naturally want to oppose them. We just don’t like it. So I guess you probably won’t like today’s theme then. It’s “I Believe in God the Son: He Rules over Me!” Like it or not, it’s true. He does.

In our verses this morning, that’s what the apostle Paul was basically telling the believers at the church in Ephesus, that Jesus rules over every single one of them. You see, Paul had just gotten done explaining the glorious work of God, Christ’s salvation, and what that meant for these people, and for you and me as well.

Because of Jesus’ saving work, we were elected by God, meaning before the world was ever created, God had chosen us to be his very own children. And then, in time, he adopted us and made us his own by redeeming us, which, if you remember the sermon from last week, means God bought us back with the steep price of the life of his Son, Jesus, given for us on the cross. And now, as God’s children, he lavishes blessing after blessing upon us. God provides for us. He preserves us.

Wow! Just spend a few moments and take that all in. You and I, elected, chosen by God, adopted, redeemed, bought back, and preserved. All by a God who loves every single one of you dearly.

Now, how would you like to respond to such wonderful news? I can tell you what the apostle Paul did. He’s in the middle of writing this letter to the Ephesian church, just finished writing about such awesome love of God, and then, right in the middle of his thought, he interrupts what he was writing with a prayer of praise. Makes complete sense.

And that’s where our verses come in today. Paul can’t help but stop what he was writing to praise and thank God for everything he’s done in the lives of the Ephesian believers, and quite frankly, in yours and mine as well.

And then come our words, “That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him as his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church...”

That is the God who loves us. Our God who has all strength, power, and might, and he showed it by doing the impossible, raising his Son, Jesus from the dead. Bringing Jesus back to life. And not only that, but Jesus, the Son of God, exalted to the highest position there is, to his heavenly throne to rule over all creation, the heavens and the earth. To rule over you and me. To be our king. To be our “boss.”

Not admit it. Did a little part of you cringe just now when I said that Jesus is our “boss”? Because, even after reading this and saying this so many times in my own head and out loud, I still do, a little.

You know why that phrase, that concept, why it has that effect, don't you? I would venture to guess it would probably be one of two reasons, maybe even both. First, because your sinful nature flat out disagrees with that statement. It says to God, “You're not the boss of me.” Because you know who does want to be in control. Your sinful nature. My sinful nature.

Ok, maybe you've never said those exact words to God, but haven't your sinful thoughts, your sinful words, your sinful actions conveyed pretty much the same message to God? If I know God doesn't want me to lie, but it's in my own interests to do it, who wins out? Usually my sinful nature, which tells me to go ahead and do what feels right.

If God tells me to treat everyone with love and respect, regardless of what they've done to me first, but my sinful nature doesn't like being slighted and screams at me to retaliate, who wins out? Or even those arguments, that often just take place in our own minds, us fighting against God, telling him he's being unfair for expecting, no, demanding us to perfect all the time even though our sinful natures remind us it's not possible, so why even bother trying to be perfect? Oh, yeah, quite often, God's not the boss, or so we think. We are.

And you know the other reason why we cringe at the thought of Jesus being our boss? Because it's true. 100 percent true. Jesus is our boss, our Master, and we've failed him. I haven't love others all the time as I ought. I haven't shown love to God with the way I live my life. And I definitely have not been a faithful follower of my Lord every second of every day of my life.

And there's no excuse for why you and I haven't. We have only ourselves to blame. I'm guessing you could figure out what our job performance evaluation would be. Unsatisfactory. Even worse, imperfect. And brothers and sisters in Christ, that negative evaluation does not just result in a firing. An evaluation, like that, in the long run, should lead straight to the fires of hell.

Well, thankfully, Jesus isn't just our boss. Even better, he's our King. And no, that's not a scary thought, even though, if you know anything about kings and their subjects, an un-loyal subject could often be punished with death. But not you and me. Because Jesus, the Son of God, our King, he wasn't bent on punishing us, and seeing us off to hell. No, he wants us for himself and for his kingdom.

So Jesus did what any good king would do. He went to fight our battle for us. He went to fight our battle to save us. A battle we were unable to win on our own, so Jesus won it for us, through his life, death, and resurrection.

Our King, came to earth as a baby, the newborn king, true man. He lived his earthly life, not with all the luxuries you'd expect with royalty, but as the lowly son of a carpenter, a mere teacher with his 12 pupils, his disciples. But our King obeyed his Father and lived perfectly, something no one else, including you and me, was even close to ever doing in this lifetime.

And then our King took on our enemies, sin, death, and the devil, took them head on as he went to the cross. If you remember, Jesus' walk to the cross was not a royal procession. Oh, the people acknowledged Jesus as a king; well, at least, jokingly they did. They mocked him as the King of the Jews. And then they killed him, crucified him on the cross.

But that was the greatest battle ever fought. On that cross, Jesus, our King, bore our every sin, and the sins of all people of all time, and he defeated them, by dying. His death, wiped away our every sin, forgave them all. At the cross, Jesus' perfect life became ours.

And finally, in all his glorious majesty, our King rose. He came back to life.. On Easter Sunday. The living proof of his victory, and our victory over all our greatest enemies as well. So when our King, our boss looks at our job performance, still full of sinfulness, he sees it covered in blood, his blood, blood that paid for our every mistake, every shortcoming, our every sin.

You know why Jesus, our King, the Son of God, why he was able to do that, don't you? Paul tells us this morning.

It's because he is God. All power and might are his. Jesus showed his might when he rose from the dead and then when he ascended to heaven. And now, he's ruling in heaven. He's at the right hand of the Father. The right hand, a position of authority.

And authority Jesus has, sitting on his throne, ruling over every rule, authority, power, and dominion. That's all of creation, heaven, earth, and everything in between. There is no power or rule which is not under the authority of our Savior, of our King. Everything is under his feet. Everything is subjected to Jesus. Our enemies, both physical and spiritual, subjected to Jesus, defeated by Jesus.

You and I are even subjected to Jesus, and there's nothing bad about that. This is what Paul has to say about our situation, "God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church."

Everything for the church, for his faithful followers. Everything Jesus does, it's for you and me, for our benefit. We've seen that in how he fought our battle, to save us. And now, in our lives, he makes everything work for our good. Even the sufferings he allows in our lives, that's for you and me, for our good.

Now, why in the world did he do all that, live, die, and rise for us? What was in it for Jesus? Martin Luther tells us, "All this he did that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he has risen from death and lives and rules eternally."

Jesus went to hell and back to save us. He did that because he loves us. He did that because he wants us to be his own. And now we get to be his loyal subjects. We get to serve him with pure thoughts, words, and actions. With our King's help, we fight back against our sinful nature, and because of him, we win and live how he wants to.

I believe in God the Son. He rules over me. That means he's my boss. And you know, that's not such a bad thing because this is what my boss has done for me. He loves me. HE saved me. And now, he not only rules over me. He rules for me and for you. For our benefit. That's what our loving Lord does. That's what our King does. And that makes it easier to serve and obey him. And we do. With glad hearts.