

Key idea:

To teach that – don't be deceived by claims that "Jesus as Lord" is not enough - because God has made His story our story by joining us to Him and all He's done as our Lord.

Application:

So that – those listening would not believe the lie that we need more than Jesus as Lord but embrace the encouragement that God views those joined to Jesus as He does Jesus himself.

1. Intro

A few years ago, with the arrival of cheap digital colour printing, someone had the bright idea of personalising popular children's stories. You provide the name of your child (or your own name if you feel the need), they do a find and replace of the name of the original hero, and hit "Print".

"Once upon a time there was a young princess who had the longest, most beautiful, golden blonde hair. Her name was Rapunzel, nope, hang on, Steph."

Their story became your story.

Or sometimes they just added the name. One day, "Winnie the Pooh was walking in the Hundred Acre wood with his friends, Piglet, Tigger and Seamus."

His story became your story.

Of course, these are made up stories and I'm not sure any child has every said to their parents "Is that true Daddy? I can't remember that even happening."

But there is a true story, a story from history, where the story of the hero becomes our story. And we'll see in today's passage why that makes Him enough as our Lord.

We'll pray and then we'll jump in.

PRAY

Colossians 2:6-15

⁸ Be careful that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit based on human tradition, based on the elements of the world, rather than Christ. ⁹ For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ, ¹⁰ and you have been filled by him, who is the head over every ruler and authority. ¹¹ You were also circumcised in him with a circumcision not done with hands, by putting off the body of flesh, in the circumcision of Christ, ¹² when you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. ¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive with him and

forgave us all our trespasses. ¹⁴ He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; he triumphed over them in him.

2. Don't be kidnapped....

Just before we dive in, we do need to see why Paul's about to tell us "His story is now our story"

The Colossians have been going well but they're in danger. Someone's been trying to tell them they need more than simply Jesus as their Lord. We don't find out yet what they think that should be, but it doesn't really matter what it is. If you think you need to add anything to Jesus, you believe a lie. It's empty, it's man-made. In fact, it's come from the powers of darkness (I think that's what elements of the world means), and not from Christ himself.

Right now, Paul's about to say "This is what it means that "His story is now your story." And when he's done, hopefully we'll see another reason why "Jesus as your Lord" is enough. We'll

see how ridiculous it is to think you could add anything to
“Jesus is my Lord and that’s enough”

Kids, I’ve made a sheet you can tick every time I say “His story is now our story”. Keep this next to whatever other sheet you’re doing. It’s the one thing I want you and your family to remember today.

You can start....now. Because I’m at point 3.

3. His story is now your story

As I prepared this passage, I noticed it was similar to the earlier one (in chapter 1) that begins “He is the image of the invisible God”. They both speak about Jesus as God, head over all rulers and authorities, his reconciling death.

Why is Paul telling us this again? What’s new?

We are. It’s still the story of Jesus, but this time it’s about how His story is now our story. As we look at it, we’ll see the things that are at the heart of His story, what it means for Him to be Lord, and how we have been swept up into that story.

As I said, we're not going to worry too much about the details. Let's just trace the thread of "His story is now your story".

Verse 9

⁹ For the entire fullness of God's nature dwells bodily in Christ,

His story. Well "His story" is that in the man Jesus we see the full package of what it means to be God. The one who has always been God, has now also taken up humanity. That sounds a bit like He, Jesus, is the image of the invisible God from the previous chapter doesn't it?

That's His story, but How is that now our story? It's about fullness and completeness.

Verse 10

¹⁰ and you have been filled by him, who is the head over every ruler and authority.

There's nothing in Jesus that's missing in what it means to be fully God, He's complete. So, **by Him**, we're complete as well. We're full. Joined to Jesus we're restored to completeness. There's nothing missing in what it means for us to be fully human.

His story, fully, completely God. Our story, joined to Him, by Him, fully completely human.

And what does that mean? I think we'll pick that up as we go along.

For now, His story is now our story.

Let's keep going.

You're bound to have questions about this passage so write it down, put it in the Comment Box."

Verse 11

¹¹ You were also circumcised in him with a circumcision not done with hands, by putting off the body of flesh, in the circumcision of Christ,

Ok, so if you've done the study for this week, you're hoping I'm going to solve the mystery of this verse. Nope, sorry. It's ok to say, it's not clear. Just to make it even less clear, if you're reading the NIV it says either the "circumcision done by Christ" or "the circumcision by Christ". But literally it's the "circumcision of Christ", so it could be done "by" Him, or it could be done "to" Him. Some say Paul's talking about His crucifixion. It's not clear.

What is clear is that "His story is now our story".

Let's see how.

The original circumcision was a sign of being one of the people of God wasn't it? The removal of a piece of flesh by hand. It said "I'm a member of the people God has chosen: Israel." So, circumcision is a sign of being God's chosen.

But there's circumcision "of Christ" that's not a physical thing. Could it be something like this?

First, His story. Christ is the one chosen by God. Remember, He is the true Israel.

Now our story. We were circumcised "in Him, in Christ" The body of flesh is put off, that's Paul's term for the old nature, and we're joined to Christ. Joined to God's chosen. Our circumcision says "we are one of God's chosen people in Christ"

His story, He is the true people of God, is now our story, in Him we are the true people of God.

Whatever it does mean, (and there are few different valid interpretations) you can see what Paul's doing. It was true for Christ, now it's true for you.

Or as they say, His story is now our story.

And this circumcision, this putting off the flesh, when did it happen?

Verse 12

¹² *when you were buried with him in baptism,*

Oh look, there's that "with him" language again. It's the story of His burial so now it's the story of our burial. And baptism's the sign of it isn't it? The sign of all that Jesus has done. The sign of the promises God makes to us in Christ. The sign that if we're joined to Christ we're joined to what he's done. And here it's burial. It's death. We died. We died and we're buried to pay for our sin.

Did you hear what I just said? Maybe you didn't. I said "We died. We died and we're buried to pay for our sin."

We paid for our sin? Is that right?

How could that be? Didn't Jesus die in our place? Wasn't Jesus our substitute? Didn't he take the punishment so we didn't have to? Yes, absolutely he did. He did for us what we couldn't do for

ourselves. He went through it because we couldn't. And so we do get the opposite of what we deserve. That's right, and it's usually the way the Bible puts it, usually the way Paul puts it.

But Paul's come from a different angle in today's passage. Here Jesus' story is NOT separate from our story, with Him over there paying for our sin, and us over here not, paying for our sin. In today's passage His story IS our story. Today we DID go through that same passage into burial – We are joined to Jesus and so went through what He did.

His story is now our story. We'll keep going.

in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Now I'm going to say this carefully because I don't want you to mishear me. From the angle of today's passage, Christ and us with the same story, it's right and just that we should be raised from the dead. Right that we should be cleared of the charge of "sinner". Why? Because we HAVE paid the penalty for sins. We have taken the death that sin deserves. And we were buried. As the Head, so the body.

So if we were buried with him, we're also raised "with Him". Again there's that phrase. We're joined to Him through the

whole journey. We are the joey in the pouch, the passenger in the plane, the stickybeak on the jeans. Where he goes, we go.

And Paul's just told us how we come to have the same story. Through faith isn't it? Faith in the working of God. And what is the working of God? Well the work of God is Christ. The man Christ is that working. When God gives us our Lord Jesus, that is God working to save us. And how do we benefit from that saving work? All the work that Jesus did to become Lord? How are we joined to that Lord? How does His story become our story?

Just pause for a moment. We're asking how a wretched, rebellious sinner on death row (that's you and me) somehow comes to be treated with the same privileges and status of the most precious, righteous and only Son of God – the Lord Jesus Christ. That's what we're asking.

How is that possible? How can *that* story become *that* story?

It's simply this.

God, you promised, I believe you.

God, you said if I believe you sent Jesus for me, then He is for me.

God, you said “He is the Lord – He’s all you need”. I said “Yes, He is.”

That’s faith isn’t it? Taking God at His word, that Jesus is His gift to you as your Lord, and living like it – a life that says “Yes, Jesus as my Lord is enough.” I can’t add to that, I don’t need to.

So by faith, His story is now our story. But we see something of our old story in Verse 13.

¹³ And when you were dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, he made you alive with him and forgave us all our trespasses.

Before His story became our story, before we were “in Him” we lived in Trespass Street, and there’s a sign at the edge of town saying, “Uncircumcision – population: not God’s people”. A town in the state of Dead. That’s where *our* story started. Dead.

But His story’s one of life from the dead, because death’s only for people with trespasses. But joined to Jesus those trespasses, those sins, are dealt with. So of course we’ll be made alive with Him.

And how are they dealt with? Well here’s where we really see what it means to be joined to Jesus. Yes, we’re joined to Him,

but He's also joined to us. We've been saying "His story is now our story" but there was a time when "Our story became His story".

You see our old story was written down. Not a diary, or memoir, not as a novel, not as an epic poem. Our story was an infinitely long legal document that said, "You are in the red". "Your sins against God have put you so far into debt there nothing you can do to repay it. In fact, with every breathe you sink deeper and deeper. Every pen stroke on it is against you".

That's our story. Written as a notice from the debt collector.

But our story became His story. Our story of debt became His.

Verse 14

¹⁴ He erased the certificate of debt, with its obligations, that was against us and opposed to us, and has taken it away by nailing it to the cross.

The story of our debt becomes the story of Jesus. Jesus takes the debt on himself. Jesus becomes the debtor. As Jesus is nailed to the cross, His Father is cancelling that debt. He's cancelling our debt.

Can you see just how intertwined is the life of our Lord with us who are in Him? Unless Jesus as our Lord became what we were, condemned and dead, we could never become what he is, alive and righteous and pure in God's sight.

His story became our story, so that our story *could* become His story.

How pathetic, would it be, how ridiculous to look at all He's done and say "Yeah, I could improve on that." Or "I have to be worthy to get myself into that story."

Friends "Jesus as Lord" is enough.

4. And He's proud of it

Friends, it's a bit much to take in isn't it? All these things Paul has said we've done. We look around us and our lives on the surface don't look vastly different from those around us. We get up, we go to work, we play sport, we get together with family. Some parts of the week do look different. Reading the Bible

over breakfast, family devotions at night, our prayer, Bible study groups, Sunday morning church.

But the things we've been talking about this morning, things we've done – being circumcised, buried, raised. It's hard to believe it's actually true isn't it? We might believe it but it certainly seems hidden. Well it's hidden to us, but not hidden to the unseen realm, including the powers of darkness. In fact, God made sure that it wasn't. Why?

Because this story, the story of how our story became His story, is God's favourite story to tell. It's the story of how His Son becomes Lord. How as Lord he defeats His enemies, our enemies. That's a story He wants known.

Verse 15

¹⁵ He disarmed the rulers and authorities and disgraced them publicly; he triumphed over them in him.

The story of how He honours the ones joined to His Son, and He shames the ones who want to see *us* shamed.

The Father is proud of this story, it makes His Son look good. He's proud to honour the Son and those who have been caught up in His story.

And the Son is proud of the story. He's proud to make His story our story. He's proud to have us in Him.

So what do we do with this. What's the application of "His story is now our story"?

Well here's a couple of questions.

Question 1. What difference would it make to you to know *that....*

the Father right now looks at you in the same way He looks at His Son?

With the same affection.

With the same Fatherly pride.

You have the same privileges.

The same status.

What difference will it make when you're tempted?

Tempted to doubt His love for you.

Tempted to think you need to do something to make Him think better of you?

Tempted to think you need something else to be complete.

Tempted to doubt His power to look after you.

Tempted to doubt His desire to look after you.

Tempted to worry about others looking down on you.

Question 2. What difference would it make to you to know *why*....

the Father looks at you in the same way He looks at His Son?

What difference will it make when you're tempted to look down on *others*?

Tempted to think you *could* do something to make Him think better of you?

Friends, Jesus as your Lord has a story that should leave you in no doubt about the way his Father feels about Him. But Jesus has taken you through that story with Him. So now it's only right, that with His story now your story, that the Father looks at you as forgiven, reconciled, and, like His Son, pure, complete, victorious.