



Christ Over All

Joe White

Ted Cunningham: Starting today and going all the way through the Sunday right before the election, we are in a series going through the Book of Colossians where we are going to be studying the supremacy of Christ over all – over the church, over creation, over our homes, and over our communities. So, hopefully, you will dial in, tune in for that and this series all through the fall, as we go through this book, verse by verse.

Today, we are kicking it off with a friend of Woodland Hills for the past 18 years. Joe has been a part of the Woodland Hills teaching team. I don't know if you remember when we had to shut down in the middle of March, but Joe and I were in Virginia together and it had been a year or two since we had been together at an event.

I remember telling Joe, "Hey, you're scheduled to preach tomorrow, and we still want you to preach, but there will be nobody at church. We're shutting down." He looked at me... He doesn't watch a lot of news, which is why he's so healthy. I remember looking at me like, *you have lost your mind*. I said, "Yeah, we're shutting down; we're being told to shut down." I was filming a video to all of you, telling you that.

I don't know if you remember how much Joe's message ministered to all of us when he spoke that very first Sunday with a message planned on hope. Joe always points us back to Jesus in every message that he gives. He's been with Kanakuk his whole life and has ministered to thousands and thousands of kids over the years and then thousands with the gospel around the country and around the world. We're just grateful for his ministry here and how he continues to share the message of Jesus everywhere he goes.

So, would you bow with me for a word a prayer and we'll get started with the series this morning. Father, we are grateful how you continue to use Joe in our lives. He is Paul to many of us Timothys here at Woodland Hills and I know around the country. I know there are so many that are grateful for his ministry, so we just ask that you use him this morning.

For those who have never placed faith in Jesus, that today would be the first day that they come to realization of their need for Christ, that they would confess their sins, repent of their sins that they would surrender to Jesus as Savior, that they would place faith alone in Christ alone. We pray that today.

I thank you for the generosity of this church and how they have ministered so well to their neighbors and to the communities of Stone and Taney Counties, up into Springfield, and down into Arkansas. Thank you for how you continue to use this church.

Use this message today, use this series as we talk about *Christ Over All* through the fall here at Woodland Hills. We're grateful and we pray all of this in the good name of Jesus and the authority of that name. And everyone agreed and said... Amen.

Give a nice, warm Woodland Hills welcome to our friend, Joe White.

Joe White: You're so sweet. You're little tea party clap, just social clap. Thank you. I love being in this church because you get your Garth Brooks microphone on. "Oh, I got friends in low places..." Where's Clay? Good night, man, he can sing. I feel like I'm on stage. No, it's great to be back with the church with people in it; this is incredible. Way to go. You ain't afraid of anything.

Gosh, if you're online, I'm glad you didn't come. This church is packed. Wall to wall people out in the lobby, people over the balcony, Ted, in the second tier up there in the balcony. Glad you didn't come. Stay home, watch online; this place is just incredibly packed. But we're socially distancing, city fathers, we're all like nine feet apart. I've got my mask in my pocket.

You're looking at me and you're going, "What happened to that person?!" Well, the last time I was here, I had one leg off. There's an old guy back there whispering to his wife. I can see you back there. "Harriet, I wonder what they're going to cut off next." Stop it. I don't know what they're going to cut off next. It's going to start getting interesting though.

Last time, I had a little snow man, remember Olaf? Remember my little snow man? I was drawing on Olaf in the hospital, making little pictures of him and then when my doctor came in for surgery. Of course, I was out, but I had this little smiley face on there and little eyes. I wrote, "Don't hurt me." So, he needed a friend. Would y'all give Olaf II a special Woodland Hills welcome today, ladies and gentlemen. Olaf I and Olaf II.

I'm in the Under Armour store last week and I was with my wife actually buying these pants. This man was in line and he had some of these nice little sliders – I don't know what you call them – flip flops or something. I said, "What size are those?" He goes, "A 10." I go, "Do you think they've got those in my size?" And then I went to get a pedicure. I said, "What do you charge?" No, I didn't do that. I really want to do that; I want to get a pedicure.

There's a lot of wonderful things about having no feet. I feel sorry for you people with two feet. I don't have to bend over and tie my shoes in the morning. I don't have athletes' foot, sore feet, ingrown toenails, toe nail clippers. The best part is Ted, in church, can no longer step on my toes. He can step on your toes, but he can't step on my toes ever again, Ted. For real, the best part about having no feet is that when I speak to you today, I will no longer put my foot in my mouth. So, here I am in freedom. I can say anything I want and it won't embarrass anybody.

Is that it, Ted, Christ Over All? So, this series, church... Teddy goes, "Will you speak on September 6?" I said, "Teddy, if you want me to. You're better than I am." He goes, "This series goes right up to the election, November 4. I think if I preached it, I think I'd get a lot of hate emails about the way I preach." Not that he wanted Sean Hannity to speak and he couldn't come. Why would you send him an email for that? But anyway, I think he was chicken to speak today, so I said, "I'll do it for you, Ted." I don't care if you email me because you don't know my mail. It's like billjones@aol... something. Shoot me an email.

November 4... And since no one has an opinion about that... we decided we would speak on *Christ Over All*. Say it, Christ Over All and picture it stretching all the way to November 4. Doesn't that feel good. The text, as Teddy said, is Colossians. It starts off in an incredible way. Woodland Hills, it starts off with the word *Paul*. When he speaks, it's like the greatest story you'll ever listen to, but I don't care if you are seven or twelve or fifteen or eighteen or twenty-one or twenty-three or thirty-three or fifty or seventy-five, when Paul speaks, you just lean in because it's so interesting, it's so incredibly compelling as he speaks from this gorgeous old book. It's a great book! The most powerful book ever written. There are over 9 billion of these things out there. Nine billion published, if you can believe that, over the years. Paul... Men and women, do you think he's earned the right to be heard? Paul...

Let me tell you a little story about the right to be heard. In 1274 and 1281, under the leadership of the blood thirsty warrior, Kublai Khan, in Mongolia, the decision was made to attack and take Japan. So, Kublai Khan assembled thousands of warriors, fierce warriors, and he put them in primitive war ships and began to sail across the East China Sea to take Japan. But something happened. Legend says in both crusades, because they didn't have Weather Bug on their phones, a typhoon shows up from out of nowhere, they thought. It takes out the fleet, and Japan was saved. They always called the wind Kamikaze. Have you ever heard that word? Meanwhile, the Samurai warriors from the twelfth century have this motto as they fight for the defense of their country and their divine emperor, "Loyalty unto death." So that was the slogan of Japan.

World War II breaks out. Japan decides to take out the United States of America fleet. Little did they know that Americans had resolve. The Americans were also loyal to freedom. So, in 1944 and 1945, at the end of the war, as the United States of America fleet begins to take the Japanese soldiers in the islands approaching Japan, Japan realizes they are losing the war. They send out their Kamikaze pilots, young pilots, 19, 20, 21, 22. Men trained to fight unto death. These men, some 25, some 30, some 35, some 45, but mostly kids, they learned to take off with no need to land. They learned to take off because they'll never land.

One account that was told to me by an 83-year-old friend, 20 years ago... He said that on the deck of a carrier, one of these Kamikaze pilots, attempting to crash into the carrier, skids in, not blowing up the bombs that were strapped to this plane. He said they opened up the cockpit and there was this scared 19-year-old pilot looking at these Americans. He was locked and chained to his seat. You talk about dedication, you talk about loyalty to death, you could imagine being a 19-year-old kid taking off in this plane to find an American ship to crash into the ship, locked and chained to the seat to never return because of the dedication to the divine emperor. So, 56 American ships were sunk in the Pacific, but 3,800 pilots gave their life and now there is a museum in Japan, honoring these brave soldiers who fought unto death.

It wasn't the Japanese that invented loyalty unto death. It was Jesus who invented loyalty unto death because for eternity past, I believe, unto the cross, God had a divine plan. He was the divine leader and he had a plan, as he created man in his image, where man could choose right or wrong. And his plan with the Son, the person of the Trinity, the Son... The Father, the Son, the Spirit, with this mission from the manger to the cross, Loyalty Unto Death.

So, Paul and Peter and James and Andrew and Philip and Thomas and Bartholomew and Matthew and James, the son of Alphaeus and Simon the zealot, Judas, the son of James... Ten of the twelve, and Paul, carried that same loyalty unto death and then the martyrs of the first and second centuries, they carried the motto, Loyalty to Christ unto Death. And it was Paul, in his conversion somewhere around AD 48, who saw Christ and he heard the voice of Jesus and he was instantly changed, completely changed. And for the next 20 years, Paul lived Loyalty Unto Death as he earned the right to be heard.

But more importantly than all of that – five times the 39 lashes Paul received, three times beaten with rods, one time stoned (somehow, he got away from the stoning), countless persecutions... More important than all of that, it was the words of Peter recognizing the words of the other writers of scriptures where Peter said about Paul's writing and Peter's writing and John's writing Jesus' proclamation and all the scripture of the Old Testament, he said, ***But know this first of all, no prophecy of scripture is a matter of ones own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will but men moved by the Holy Spirit.*** – 2 Peter 1: 20-21 Men move by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. And Paul speaks as the Holy Spirit inspires him to speak. And he speaks about Loyalty Unto Death. Christ Over All.

So, Paul prays for the Colossian church in Chapter one, verses 9-12. And it's the same prayer I know that Teddy has probably prayed, church, thousands of times over this church. Paul prays, ***9 For this reason also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, 10 so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; 11 strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.***

And so, on each side of me, we have two silhouettes, Christ Over All is represented on my right. That's Christ Over All, Paul's prayer for the church, Ted's prayer for the church. And then on my left, you have the other silhouette, which represents Worldly Brainwashing. This one is painted red, too hot to touch. Call it Fox News over all, CNN over all, Laura Ingraham over all. Facebook over all. COVID fear over all. Me over all. Myself over all.

I don't know what you call this guy, but this guy is inspired by the eyes of the world. This very old book called *The Eyes of the World*. I go into the sections entitled First and Second Frustrations, Chapter 1 From Second Nowhere, verses 9-12. Are you ready church? "For this reason, since the day we argued about CNN, Fox News, The View, and MSNBC, we went back and forth over Sean Hannity verses Oprah verses Bill Maher. My instruction for you is that you stew over President Trump's sporadic Tweets and you fear over Kamala's totally moderate political ideas (yeah).

And that you go to bed with the television on so you can maintain your level of frustration even in your dreams at night. Keep reading. I want you to be filled with the knowledge of your Facebook world and that you keep your iPhone by your side 24/7/365. To be fully equipped, you need to be enveloped in your Twitter, Snap Chat, Instagram, and texting world at a minimum of four hours a day, maintaining contact with at least 500 friends on your Facebook.

It is my further hope that you focus on your sporadic wife's weaknesses and make a long list of the things she does that hurt, anger, or frustrates you should you bring them up and win in the next argument.

Your future is uncertain. It may be socialist, communist, or just merely chaotic. Worry is your friend and helpful as you think about the potential pitfalls in these uncertain times for your kids, your finances, your health, and your 401k. May anger and frustration be with you always. Masks up; big brother's eye is always watching. The Book of Frustrations.

Here are your choices. The Worldly Brainwashing silhouette is filled with anger and frustrations and worry and fear. Can anybody relate? And Instagram and emotional instability, and hatred – November 4 – and argumentative and iPhone addiction and television propaganda.

But praise God for his Word. Praise God for scripture. Let me tell you about Christ Over All. Paul says, "For since I heard of it, I have not ceased to pray for you." Well, for this church, Jesus is praying, and I'll tell you because he said it, church. In Romans 8: 34, it says that he is interceding for you. If you don't really know him, just be assured he's still praying for you. If you've been kind of moving your life over in this direction (Worldly Brainwashing) ... And a lot of us probably have. Boy what a temptation isn't it? He's still praying for you. If you feel like your cup is half empty, he's still praying for you. He says, "I pray for you that you may be filled with the knowledge of His, what He thinks, what He wants for your life."

People say, "Joe, how are you doing?" I'm like, "The majors are fine." There are two majors – how you are with Him and how you are with His will for your life? I'm fine. Literally, from the knee up, I'm fine. Now don't talk about my knee down, but from the knee up, I'm fine because those two things are fine. And all the minors and inconvenience things... Those are minors, ladies and gentlemen. I tell you, young people, you have nothing to worry about. I've been at a 12 for weeks and actually months. Ten is the worst, so 12 is over the top. But the two majors were always fine. Always. When I was crying my eyes out, the majors were always fine.

"Knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding." That's to have the mind of Christ, men and women. "Walking in a manner worthy..." I can't do that. Honestly, church, I couldn't do that when I had feet. Maybe you can. I couldn't. But by the power of the Holy Spirit, who indwells your heart as a believer, you can do that. I don't know where you are, but this pulls on me every day. I'm just a regular guy, just like you are, and this pulls on me every day. I tell you man, I'm running from it. I don't like this thing back here. I don't like stuff in my past. And I'm running. I hope, after today, that you're running.

I was laying in bed in that hospital. They had just cut the first one off. It was the third night and it was horrible. I couldn't sleep and I couldn't eat. I sat there watching the clock all night long. They couldn't give me enough stuff. I'm lying there on that pillow and I'm as sick as I can be in every way. I grabbed that pillow in tears and I said, "God, give me the strength to die."

Y'all, immediately, this one (Christ Over All) came over me. I know it was the Holy Spirit; I know it was. When life gets really real... It said, "Give me the strength to live." That just catapulted in my pain. I started looking toward the Christ Over All guy and I said, "God give me the strength to live." I just started fighting through the pain and fighting through worry and fear and "am I going to die" and all this junk.

Pleasing our Savior. Y'all, is there anything more exciting than pleasing Jesus. Is there anything more exciting than making him happy? Can you think about that? Yes, he hung there. He hung there for six long hours. But you get a chance to live a life that pleases him, that makes him happy, bearing fruit in every good work. Isn't that great? Do you know what that means? That means everything you do, you do what matters in a thousand years. You guys in high school and middle school, you're doing what matters in a thousand years.

Like my buddy, Jackson. I told you about him. He's leading his buddy, Will, to Christ and Will beats him up in the hall. I told you the story before. Will beats him up in the hall and Jackson keeps putting notes in his locker, high school friends. Notes about Proof for God, proof for God, and Will keeps hitting him in the face. Jackson goes home and gets more notes. Then one day, Will hears the passion in this young man's life and he says, "I want to know the Jesus you know." You're doing what matters in a thousand years. You're not doing what matters on Saturday night. You're in your workplace, adults. You're in your home with your children. You're doing what matters in a thousand years.

I was talking to Melinda back here, discipling her kids, memorizing the words, Teddy, in your scripture memory book. Doing what matters in a thousand years. Praying for your wife, gentlemen. Praying with your wife, gentlemen, at night. You're never too old to hold your wife's hand. Hear me. You're never too old to grab your wife's little hand and say, "Baby, how can I pray for you tonight?" Just reach over there.

"Increasing in the knowledge of God." God doesn't wear mask; you can read his lips. "Increasing in the knowledge of God, strengthened with all power..." It's better than Pilates, it's better than yoga, it's better than power lifting, it's better than body building, it's better than insanity X, power that never leaves you, power that's always going inside of you like a generator in a car. "...attaining of all steadfastness." That means when you move to this side, Christ over all, you're immovable, you're unshakable. November 4, the next November 4, socialism, communism, freedom, you're immovable, you're unshakable with patience; joyously thankful to "share in the inheritance of the saints in Light."

I tell you what Paul says about this guy. He says this man (Christ Over All) walks in the Spirit. This man (Worldly Brainwashing) walks in the flesh. And he says, "Those who set their mind on the flesh cannot please God, but those who set their minds on the Spirit please God."

And walking in the Spirit, Ephesians 5: 18 says that you're filled with the Spirit. You're empowered continually by the Spirit. You're under the control continually of the Spirit. It's like a red carpet for this gentleman (Christ Over All).

Do you know what Peter says about this guy? In 1 Peter 1, he says that... you have to pause when you hear Peter's words. He says, "For this way, the entrance into the eternal kingdom will be abundantly supplied to you."

Do you know what John says?" John says, "...for I saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven as a bride adorned for her husband." – Rev 21. Every time I read that, I think about Debbie Jo walking down the aisle. Are you with me, boys? I tell high school boys that are struggling with porn... "The most beautiful sight you'll ever see..." Men, you remember it. Married guys, you remember when your wife walked down the aisle. You remember how beautiful that sight was. The most beautiful sight in the world. It will cure pornography just like that to picture your wife in purity walking down the aisle.

And he says, "I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne say, 'behold! The tabernacle of God is among men, that he will dwell among them and they shall be his people and he himself will be among them, and he will wipe away every tear from their eyes..." Are you ready for that? "...and there will no longer be any death." Those of us that understand that. And he said, "...there will no longer be any mourning or crying for pain, for the first things have passed away."

Church, do you remember when our Savior said, in Matthew 6: 34, "No man can serve two masters."? Hear me America in the year 2020 with all the gadgets. No man can serve two masters. Either they will love the one and hate the other or be loyal to one and forsake the other.

Do you remember as Joshua steps up on the plate in Joshua 25, Joshua says, "Choose ye this day whom you will serve."? And I ask you individuals, not church but asking individuals, to choose this day. Go ahead, make a choice. You can't have both. You can't be filled with this and be filled with this. So, I'm going to ask you during this beautiful song, when you're ready, individually, to stand during this song. You can stand immediately, or you may want to pray about it for a while.

There were about six people I was watching over in this area that were praying about it for a while and then, towards the end of the song, they stood, and I just started clapping for them. They were young folks. And as they stood during the song, I cheered for them because they wanted to run from the flesh and walk in the Spirit. When the Holy Spirit just says, "STAND!" in your heart for this is the life you want to lead, the carpet you want to walk on, I ask you to stand. This will be our final prayer as we sing.

Ted Cunningham: Every single time Joe gets up here, for the last 18 years, every phone call I've ever had with you, every meal I've every shared, every time I've traveled with him, every conversation starts and ends with Jesus. Joe, you are constantly, as Paul in our lives because there are a lot of young Timothys out here that you have disciplined over the years and we are carrying on what you have poured into us.

We have a lot of fun together, but, again, every interaction starts and ends with Jesus and for that, we are grateful for you and your leadership in this church and in this community. Would you help me thank Joe one more time?