

CHRIST ABOVE ALL IN TITLE GREATNESS

"He that cometh from above all: He that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth; He that cometh from heaven is above all." John 3:31.

How important is the application of Christ to the souls of men! But no matter what treasures of righteousness are found in Christ's blood, no matter what joys, what peace, what comforts spring from His Incarnation and His Humiliation and His Exaltation, these give their distinct benefits to wretched humanity only by effectual application. No matter how great and glorious the titles given Christ they would be as meaningless as the hieroglyphics of Egypt to a machinist, unless people put on Christ by faith. Let us not forget that the titles of Christ are so many motives or arguments to persuade men to come to Him.

I. Christ is the Physician of Souls.

"But when Jesus heard that, He said unto them, they that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick." Matt. 9:12.

Matthew the publican offered his heart to Jesus. Then he offered his home to Jesus. The strange and unexpected change in Matthew brought in the neighborhood. Christ came to be a physician to sick souls. He healed their bodies. He carried no splints. He used no chloroform. He never made a patient squirm under cauterization. He never tied an artery. He never gave a hypodermic. He never used a stethoscope. He never pulled a tooth. But with one word He stuck fast Malchus' amputated ear. He stirred dust and saliva with which he made the man who was born blind, who was without optic nerve, cornea or crystalline lens, open his eyes on the glorious subject. He beat music on the drum of the deaf ear. He straightened a woman who was bent double for eighteen years. He made a man who had not used his limbs for thirty-eight years to shoulder his mattress and walk off. So many have stood helpless before a withered arm. But the doctor of omnipotent surgery came to the man with the lifeless, useless, shriveled arm and said, "Stretch forth thine hand." The man did — and his hand was as good as the other. At His word fevers fled. At His command Death shrank back into his lair.

And the miracles He wrought in human bodies are not as great as the ones He wrought as the Great Physician who healed human souls. He is the Great Physician from heaven who said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised." This Great Physician does not find a case that baffles Him. He is above all others. He is the only Physician for wounded souls.

II. This world is a great hospital.

It is full of sick souls, diseased souls, dying souls, sad and weeping eyes, and delirious voices that hold not God in awe. And all are wounded by one and the same mortal weapon, sin, which is an opiate in the will, a madness in the brain, a pollution in the blood, a poison in the heart, a blindness of the eyes, a deafness of the ears, a prostitution of the tongue, a palsy of the feet, a withering of the hands. God sees this world as a hospital of those incurably diseased. So many in this hospital are smitten with the cancer of covetousness, blistered with the bruising of blasphemy, lame with lust, anemic with adultery, foul with fornication, unaware of the dangers of uncleanness, hurt with hatred, poisoned with philosophies, damaged by drunkenness, rotten with ruinous ravages of sin. Sin is a mortal wound — a stab in the very heart of a poor sinner. Sin darkens the understanding, defiles the conscience, stiffens the will, hardens the heart, and disorders all

effectiveness God wishes us to maintain. But this disease which passes the skill of men and of angels to be healed, He cures. He only has the medicines that can cure a sick soul.

It is a joy to remember that the Great Physician is sympathetic. By experience He knows the anguish of inward troubles, the pain of parting, the weight of God's wrath, the loneliness of separation, and these things make Him tender with distressed souls. He is always ready and never fails. He performs a perfect cure in all cases He undertakes. No soul fails of cure in his hands. Also, He rejoices in recoveries. Great is His joy in seeing the efficiency of His blood upon our souls.

III. Christ is altogether lovely.

"His mouth is most sweet: yea, He is altogether lovely." As all the sweetness that is in the flowers of the field is brought in by the bees into the hive, and is there embodied in one hive -- so all the attributes of God and the sweetness of them all are hived in Christ, in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily. Yes, fullness of love, mercy, holiness, power, justice, and wrath. As all rivers are gathered into the ocean, so Christ is the ocean in which all true delights and pleasures meet. Christ is the sum of all loveliness. Whatever a soul can desire is found in Him. Nothing is lovely in opposition to Him or in separation from Him. Take away Christ and there is no loveliness or any enjoyment. The best creature comfort out of Christ is but a broken cistern; it cannot hold one drop of true comfort.

Riches, honors and comforts are sweet when the face of Christ smiles upon us through them. But without Him what empty trifles are they all! His loveliness is fresh to all eternity.

IV. Christ is the desire of all nations.

He is the heart throb of history, the completion of the individual, the crown of the universe. God has appointed Him as the remedy for the sins and miseries of people in all parts of the world. Even the most barbarous of nations are not excluded from the benefits of redemption by Christ. There is sufficiency in Him to supply the wants of the whole world. As the sun in the heavens suffices all nations for light, so does the Sun of Righteousness suffice for the redemption, justification and sanctification of people throughout the world. Out of every nation under heaven some shall be brought to Christ, and to heaven by Him.

Let me shoot a few interrogatory arrows into your heart. Has Christ the supreme place in your desires? Do you esteem all things but loss in comparison with the excellency of Jesus Christ, your Lord? Is He to you as a city of refuge to the manslayer? Is He to you as a spring of water in a dry place? Is He to you as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land? Is He to you a very present help in time of trouble? Is everything in Christ desirable in your eyes? Are you longing at all times for Him? Do you desire to obey His commandments? Have your eyes been opened to see His want and worth? Is His righteousness the righteousness you desire?

V. Christ is the Lord of Glory.

This is one of the most glorious and royal titles which Christ possesses. Christ crucified is the Lord of Glory. The Scriptures everywhere proclaim His great and excellent glory. Christ is glory itself--the glory of heaven, the glory of Zion, the glory of our souls for evermore. He reflects glory upon all who are with Him. He stamps glory upon all who belong to Him. His works on earth were glorious works. The purchased liberty of His people is a glorious liberty. The church is a glorious church. The gospel which reveals Him is a glorious gospel. The essential glory of Christ is His co-equal, co-extensive, co-existent, so-essential glory with God. That is unspeakable and inconceivable glory. He has the same name, the same nature, the same essential properties, the same will, the same glory as God the Father.