

**Intro**

- ~ We live in difficult times and we may be tempted to think things are the worst they've ever been or can't get any worse
- ~ But, when we look at human history, especially the history contained in our bible and the history of the church we realize things have been much tougher. It's just that it's been the worst time we've known
- ~ May we be encouraged by our ruling, reigning and sovereign Lord in this time
- ~ The disciples didn't have it any easier and as a matter of fact they had it harder
- ~ Yet they heard Jesus say He would build his church and they knew they had a part to play in that

**Outline**

- 1 Christ is the center of the universe
- 2 The world is raging against Christ
- 3 We speak Christ with boldness

**1 Christ is the center of the universe**

- ~ This chapter gives us a clear description of who Christ is
- ~ In these crazy political times we must keep our eyes on Christ
- ~ We love to hear stories about people and their lives
- ~ People are fascinated by the lives of people who have no godly morals
- ~ Why else do magazines like "People" sell or other magazines that highlight the lives of stars
- ~ The greatest life we can learn about is who Jesus Christ is
- ~ This chapter is filled with descriptions of who Christ is
  - 1 v10 – Jesus was crucified and resurrected
  - 2 v11 – He's the stone, the cornerstone which was rejected
  - 3 v12 – He provides salvation
  - 4 v19 – God is the one we listen to more than man
  - 5 v24 – He's the creator
    - He's creator of all the folks that rage and hate him in v25-27
  - 6 v25-27 – the world rages against Christ has imagines a vanity against Christ
  - 7 v28 – He's sovereign
    - The Lord is sovereign over creation
    - He's sovereign over men, nations and political agendas
    - He's sovereign over elections
    - Regardless of who the next president or how it's achieved God is sovereign
    - Even if an election is won illegitimately God is sovereign and permits it
    - Why does God permit such stuff because men have free wills and God is going to use to perfect his people
    - All that God permits will ultimately glorify God
    - Ps 75:7 God is judge: he put one down sets up another
    - Rom 13:1 God ordains the authorities
    - God set up Nebuchadnezzar to fulfil his purposes
    - Cyrus was the servant of God – Isaiah

**2 The world is raging against Christ**

- ~ Ps 2:1,2 are quoted here in v25,26
- ~ Rage means to act arrogantly
- ~ The world rages against Christ
- ~ The world will rage, imagine vanity against God, and think it's getting away with its evil ways but the world will give account to God

- ~ Phil 2:9-11 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father
- ~ The world rages because the world thinks they give account to no one greater
- ~ The world rages and is attempting to escape accountability
- ~ Charles Ryrie in the intro to Basic theology speaks about the relationship of theology and accountability. Society is filled with accountability and all men will give account to God
- ~ People reject the bible because the bible demands accountability because it reproves and corrects us – but the purpose of that accountability is to bring men closer to God
- ~ There is a spiritual warfare that's happening and that warfare is directed against the Lord and his word
- ~ The way the warfare manifests itself is to fight against the people of God and biblical precepts
- ~ One way we see warfare raging is against the value of human life
- ~ While there is a raging world against Christ and his truth we can rest in the sovereignty of God
- ~ God is still in control regardless of what happens
- ~ Rest in the sovereignty of God while the heathen rage

### **3 We speak Christ with boldness**

- ~ While our political climate is discouraging we must not let it distract us from our purpose – the gospel
- ~ Paul told Timothy in 2 Tim 2:3,4 *Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.*
- ~ We must not get entangled so much with the affairs of this life that we lose our purpose – the gospel
- ~ Matt 16:18 Jesus said, "I will build my church."
- ~ Jesus Christ is building his church
- ~ We may think things couldn't get any worse but the political climate in which Jesus lived was worse and in the midst of that climate he said, "I will build my church."
- ~ The disciples were helping Christ build that church in the book of Acts by preaching the gospel with boldness
- ~ In the midst of persecution the disciples were preaching the gospel
- ~ We must remember that Jesus said, "his kingdom is not of this world."
- ~ While the world raged against the disciples with persecution the disciples preached the gospel

### **Conclusion**

- ~ In v23-31 the disciples prayed a tremendous prayer that guides us in how to pray in this season
  - 1 They recognized who God is – He's Lord (Absolute and sovereign Lord), literally "lord of the house,"
  - 2 They recognized the world is raging against God
    - They just assumed the nations were Gentile authorities; the peoples, the religious leaders of Israel; the kings of the earth, a reference to Herod; and the rulers, likely pointing to Pilate. All that seems confirmed by the flow of the prayer beyond these two verses.
  - 3 They prayed for boldness to speak God's word
- ~ Christ is going to build his church the question is will we labor with him in building it?
- ~ Christ is still sovereign in this raging world