

The Center

- Ron Stullenbarger -

All of eternity centers on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. He is the all-important, eternity-changing, and humanity-redeeming Son of the living God. Colossians 1:15 tells us, *"He is the image of the invisible God."* Hebrews 1:3 says, *"He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."* At the time of his return, Revelation 19:16 says, *"On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords."*

To center our lives on meeting with God is to build our foundation on the unshakable center of all eternity. To build our lives around encounters with Jesus is to place the anchor of our hope in the King of kings and Lord of lords. Only Jesus is faithful to His word. Only Jesus will accomplish that which He has promised us.

1 John 2:17 says, *"And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever."* The will of God is to center our lives on His loving presence. God's greatest commandment is that we would simply love Him with our whole being (Matthew 22:37). To live differently than the world around us by centering our life around encountering Jesus is to chart a new path that leads to the fullness of life.

It may appear foolish to the world to place our hope solely in the person of Jesus, but nothing could be more important. It may look different to cast aside the pursuits of society such as comfort, status, and acclaim, but no greater decision could be made. We serve a God who was, is, and is to come. We belong to a King who laid down His life that we might truly live. We will find no greater joy, peace, or purpose than in serving Jesus alone. There is no greater life than one lived in full devotion to the King of all the earth.

Take time today to recommit yourself fully to the King of kings and Lord of lords. Step away from the limited perspective and think about the divine, eternal kingdom of God. Allow the truth of God's word and love to fill you with the courage to choose devotion to Him over service to yourself and the world around you. May your life be filled with the abiding presence of King Jesus!