



Capital News Capital Campaign Committee July 31, 2025

Caring for God's House - Together



Rev. Frank Yates' Sermon **SUPREME IN ALL THINGS** July 13, 2025 Colossians 1:1-14

Paul says in his letter to the Corinthians that there are “gods many and lords many” (I Cor. 8:5). Indeed! There were multiple pagan gods on Mount Olympus, some in human form, and some were part human and part divine, like Hercules with a human mother and a divine father. And there were many political leaders who were elevated to divine status, most notably Augustus Caesar.

The entire imperial theology of Rome was based on divinizing Caesars, making a god out of these very human emperors. The idea of a human who was also divine was quite common in the world of Jesus.

I have been thinking about the “gods many and lords many” of our generation. John Calvin famously said that the mind is “a perpetual maker of idols”, that is, false gods. So many people make a god out of their nation. This imperial theology of Rome has been replicated time and again within empires.

Others make a god out of sports stars. These athletic heroes assume a divine-like status in our society, now with their enormous earnings. I can assure you that the best way to get over worshipping athletes is to get up close and personal with them. The allure drops away rather quickly. Others do the same with entertainment figures. People with fame and fortune bedazzle us. But again, I ask, why would anyone do that, really? Celebrities have “feet of clay”, just like us.

Perhaps the most alluring god of our time is simply money, big money. Consider the captains of industry swimming in cash. Have you noticed the aura that surrounds billionaires?

Jesus himself knew that money is the ultimate god, the thing we most covet and desire. He warned, "You cannot serve both God and money." Still true. So again, I will ask — why would anyone turn money into a god? Paul was right, there are still "gods many and lords many."

Paul in the Colossian letter challenges us to know who we are and whose we are. The exalted Christ towers over all things and calls us to walk away from that kind of idolatry. We belong to one who is the "image of the invisible God, the first born of creation." In him the "fullness of God was pleased to dwell." He is "before all things and in him all things hold together."

We acknowledge him "head of the body, the church."

In him God "was pleased to reconcile all things to himself", "making peace by the blood of his cross." In other words, the Risen Christ is supreme in all things. *Jesus is Lord of all.* And he is the Lord of my life and yours.

Our baptism reminds us that we have died with Christ and our lives are in Christ. We are not our own, we have been bought with a price. Jesus seeks to rule your life and my life----every aspect of it. No exceptions.

When I was in college, I heard a preacher who had a bit of an edge to him. He sometimes made you uncomfortable in a way that you needed. You know what I am talking about? Fifty years ago I heard this sermon and I have never forgotten it. He described the process of conversion, the often slow and painful process of making us over into the image of Christ. First, our hearts are "strangely warmed" by the glow of Christ's amazing grace and love.

Then our minds begin to understand what we are experiencing. That is, our thinking begins to change radically. Next our hands begin doing things for others, acts of service and acts of mercy. Then our feet begin to take us to places we have never been before, engaging people we would not have met otherwise.... People so different from us yet now we're viewing them differently-as brothers and sisters for whom Christ died. So far, so good?

Then he stopped preaching and started meddling He said that the most difficult conversion happens in our "loins", as he said. That meant first our sexual behavior, the intimate part of our lives. The part we want most to keep to ourselves for ourselves. As a college student, that surely got my attention. But then he concluded on a totally surprising note. He said that the final frontier, the ultimate conversion happens in the rear pocket of our jeans (you remember this was Texas). It finally converts, yea, our pocketbook! For this zealous preacher, the ultimate test of our conversion is *our attitude toward money*. If Jesus Christ is Lord of your life, your whole life, then he is preeminently Lord of your finances. *And an amazing generosity transforms you*. It is the climatic conversion of money, when I say gratefully, "All that I am and have is a gift from God alone."

Now do you understand why I have never forgotten that sermon? Was he meddling? The better question is this: "Is Jesus Lord over your pocketbook, and all the rest of your life?" Maybe that is Jesus' question to you and to me today. Something to think, isn't it? Something to pray about.

So today let us celebrate that our Risen Savior is also the Lord of our lives. Every single nook and cranny. No exceptions. From head to foot and everything else in

between. Lord of all. Supreme in all things. A Lord and Savior who loves us with an everlasting love. A Lord and Savior who wants all of you. Friends in Christ, this is our calling and this is our challenge. Thanks be to God. Amen

The Capital Campaign Committee - Betty, Leah, Pat, Denise, Sue and Bob

*Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Psalm 127:1
Thank you for your support!*

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