



Links Players

Knowing God | The Lord is King

On his robe and on his thigh, he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords. (Revelation 19:16, ESV)

When the R&A and the USGA change a rule, it is a collaborative process. As golfers know, these two governing bodies serve the world of golf by setting rules meant to preserve the integrity of the game.

None of this is “breaking news.” The process is well-known, even if not all players and equipment manufacturers endorse every change. Nonetheless, every golfer must honor the established rules.

You might ask, “What does this have to do with the Kingship of Jesus Christ?” While we are wise to consult one another, listen to history, and invite discussion to inform our decisions, Jesus does not require our input on how to govern the world He created and is redeeming.

He, and he alone, is the All-Wise and Omni-benevolent ruler of the world, ruling individuals and the cosmos with perfect wisdom and authority.

Those of us who have lived in the United States find it hard to understand monarchical authority. Since we freed ourselves from King George’s tyranny, we’ve incorrectly assumed this is how all of life works.

While it’s wise that we live in a Republic with democratic processes and participate in a system governed by the collective wisdom of committees, when it comes to Jesus’ kingdom, we often confuse the laws of the land [mutable] with the laws [immutable] of his Kingdom.

When Christ arrived, his first proclamation was “the kingdom of God is at hand” (Mark 1:14-15). And for there to be a kingdom, one must have a King!

When Matthew begins his gospel with, “The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham,” he is not merely interested in the “family tree,” he is announcing the arrival of King David’s rightful heir—the one to whom the throne was promised.

When Peter had to clear up the confusion of a mocking crowd at Pentecost, he appealed to the Psalms for prophetic clarification—Jesus is the rightful heir to the throne of the universe (Psalm 16; Acts 2:22-35).

Peter declared Jesus was exalted to the “right hand of God,” which everyone knows is the place of absolute authority. As evidence that he is the enthroned King, Jesus pours out the Holy Spirit on those who have bowed the knee to his eternal authority.

When we, as N.T. Wright argues, “reduce him to our ‘ticket to heaven’ rather than seeing him as the disruptive, reigning Lord who overturns worldly powers, we are ‘domesticating’ him to fit our agendas.”

When C. S. Lewis points out in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, through the voice of Mr. Beaver, when speaking of Aslan (Christ the King), “He’s not safe. But he is good. “He’s the King, I tell you,” he is undermining our attempts to “tame Jesus.”

When we hold to a version of Christianity that ignores or denies the Royal authority of King Jesus, we caricature Christ into something less than he is—The King Over All!”

Prayer: Remind us again and again that to know God rightly, we must recognize him as King!

READING: Psalms 2 & 16; Acts 2:25-35; Daniel 7:13-14.

1. Aside from the reality of “local rules,” how authoritative are the rules set by the R&A and the USGA? Which rule would you like to see changed?

2. After reading the recommended texts (and there are plenty more one could explore), what are some implications of knowing Jesus as King?

3. Application: In light of Wright’s and Lewis’ observations, what are some ways we attempt to domesticate or tame Jesus?
