

**Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection, as noted in the Psalms,  
and Remembered - Psalm 2: 1-12; "Kiss the Son", Delivered in  
preparation for partaking of the Lord's Supper, by Pastor Paul Rendall,  
on November 1st, 2009, in the Morning Worship Service.**

It is indeed a vain thing for anyone to oppose the advancement of the King of Kings, our Lord Jesus Christ to the highest place of honor in their life. For He has been advanced by God the Father, through raising Him from the dead, and seating Him at His right hand; to the place of highest rule and authority in heaven and on the earth. And He will in the future be made known very publicly, at the end of this age, and the end of this World, as the great king over all Nations, and Peoples, and Kingdoms of the earth. If people will not submit to Him now; they most certainly shall be forced to it later, on the Day in which He returns; but then it will be too late. This is why it is imperative that you believe now, if you haven't yet come to Him. Each person must believe in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins while they live; after a person dies, it will be too late. We see from this text that it is a glorious privilege as well as a duty to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to submit to His righteous rule. This submission to God and to Christ is expressed to us here by the phrase "Kiss the Son." The Lord Jesus had to die on the cross to establish that rule in our hearts, and to change our hearts, so that we would sweetly submit to Him and to the Father. It was God's purpose from the beginning of the world to have His only-begotten Son die as a substitute for sinners; for those who had no love for Him, and who would rebel against God's good authority. He would lovingly confront these rebels with the great truth of His Son's going to the cross and dying for sinners, and give them a choice. "Will you believe in My Son," He says; "and be changed, seeing that I have sent Him to die in your place?" "Or will you continue to rebel?" You and I who have placed our trust in Christ are those who by grace, have chosen to surrender our lives to Christ. It is the purpose of God that many people would come to this saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It was His purpose from before time began, as it says in Revelation 13: 8, "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." This morning I would like to speak to you, using this Psalm, to cause us to remember the greatness of the grace that has been given to us; that we have been enabled to "Kiss the Son". A kiss, in the sense that we are speaking of it here, means not only submission to Christ, but it also means a positive affection for Him as well. We come to the Lord's Table in order to give our King the affection of our hearts, as well as our allegiance once again. We want to recount the triumphs of His dying love in what He did in going to the cross. We want to remember and glory in, the reality of the grace which He has given to us, when God granted us repentance and the forgiveness of all of our sins.

**I would like to point out to you, 1st of all - We were once a part of the people of the World who did not believe, and who did not want Christ to rule over us.** (Verses 1-6)

The question is raised for us here in verse 1, "Why do the heathen nations rage,

and the people plot a vain thing?" The fulfillment of these words, in the immediate sense, is what happened to Christ when He was falsely accused and then tried and found "guilty" of saying that He was the Son of God. The Jewish leaders thought that He was blaspheming. He was simply telling the truth which they should have long before received. It was after they had falsely tried Him, then, that the Lord Jesus was crucified by authority of the Roman government under Pontius Pilate, and the Roman soldiers put Him to death. Turn with me to Acts 4: 25 and you will see how the Apostles thought about these verses that we are looking at. These words are spoken by "the united voice" in prayer; of the disciples uniting in prayer together; after Peter and John were released from the custody of the chief priests and the scribes; after they had questioned them about healing the lame man at the gate Beautiful in the temple. After they bore witness to the Lord Jesus in prayer, saying that it was by His power and name that this man had become strong; the chief priests threatened them and warned them not to preach or speak at all in the name of Jesus. They responded in this way: "Lord You are God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them, who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things?' "The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gather together against the Lord and against His Christ." "For truly against Your holy servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gather together to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done." That is the immediate fulfillment of these verses. But, in order that we may apply it to ourselves here today; it was not just the Jewish chief priests, and the scribes who were against the purpose of God to make Jesus Christ the King of Israel. It was not just the Pharisees who raged against God and Christ trying to insist that this Man would not rule over them. It was not just the Roman soldiers and Pilate who were against God's plans and purposes and Christ's righteous rule. It has also been a fact of history, that over the course of every generation since Christ's first coming; that all the peoples of the nations of the world and their kings; all people who do not know God; that all of them rage against Him if they haven't been given grace to submit to Him. The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us." This is exactly how we were before conversion. We considered His rule as a threat to our supposed freedom to do what we pleased, and we were content to live without God; not knowing that we were without hope in the world. We were at enmity with God and we took counsel together with others who were in unbelief, to assure ourselves that ours was the best way to live, the right way to live in our own eyes. If anyone told us of the commands of God, or how we were breaking them, or how we should be keeping them, we saw it as their wanting to bind us up. We did not want to take the bonds of a Christian. We would break those cords and cast them away from us. But, thanks be to God, because of Jesus' death on the cross for us, things have changed so much for the better. We did take the bonds of a Christian.

Turn with me to Hosea 11: 4. "He drew us with gentle cords, with bands of love, and I was to them as those who take the yoke from their neck." You see, that even though we used to be those who raged against God's rule; that He drew those of us who now believe in Him, to Himself, with gentle cords, and with bands of love. It is His gentleness which makes us great, as David says in Psalm 18, verse 35 - "You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand (that is Christ Himself) has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great." "You enlarged my path under me, so that my feet did not slip." How else would we have ever come to Christ, were it not for God's gentleness with us? How else would we have ceased our raging against Him? How could we stand before Him and walk before Him unless Christ holds us up? How could we walk before Him, knowing what was the right thing to do, and how we should do it; unless He enlarged our path under our feet? He has, by His grace, taken away all of our resistance to the gospel and our needing to be saved. He has turned our hearts toward Him and keeps turning them to Himself. He took the yoke of sin from our neck. It is our faith in Christ that has become unto us, the shield of our salvation. Every person has a yoke to bear. You either bear the yoke of sin and bondage as an unbeliever, or you bear Christ's easy and light yoke of freedom to do what is right. An unbeliever does not understand this. Life has many burdens and cares attached to it, because of our sin, and the sins of other people. And we live in a fallen world. Nothing can be done to really change, or ease, or remove these burdens unless we believe in Jesus Christ. If we had been left to continue in our unbelief and rebellion, we would have found ourselves left under the wrath of God; with God laughing and holding us in derision. But now we have been shown great mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord. He has said unto us, "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you shall find rest for your souls." So we did take it up. And now we now want to do God's will, and to submit to His government over our lives. God is well-pleased with Jesus, and so now He can look with favor upon us. God was well-pleased in His great love, to punish Jesus, and so now He does not punish us. Out of love, He may discipline us when He sees that we need it. But He does that, out of His great love for us; not because His wrath and anger are upon us. No, that wrath and anger has all been removed at the cross. We should understand this morning that a great part of what God's favor means to us; has been His taking away our stony heart, the heart that raged against His ruling over us. And more specifically, the idea of Christ reigning over us. Now we kiss the Son. This means that what we are doing here this afternoon is to publicly recognize His authority over us. We are saying that we submit to it. We love and worship Him for fulfilling the righteous requirements of God's Law. We love and worship Him because He fulfilled all the commandments of God's holy law perfectly, and He suffered for our sins. Therefore, out of love; as we come to this table, we joyfully reaffirm to Christ that we want to wear His yoke. We want to do and keep His commandments by faith, and abide in His love, and abide in His Word.

**2ndly - We believe that to kiss the Son means that we have come to know the reality of Jesus Christ, risen from the dead.** (Verses 7 and 8)

Verse 7 says, "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'" "Ask of Me, and I will give you the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession." There was a decree that was made by God the Father and God the Son before time began; that the Son, begotten of the Father in Eternity past, would also take upon Himself human nature, and would live among men, and then He would willingly suffer for our sins and rise from the dead. He would be begotten in eternity as the Son of God, and He would be begotten from the dead as Son of God and Son of Man; the first born of a new creation, by His resurrection from the dead. All those who have sincerely believed, or will believe in Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins and for a heart that submits, fall under that decree. All of those who are unable to understand the gospel because of mental incapacity and thus cannot choose to receive or reject Him; these also shall have the blood of Christ applied to them, if God so wills it; that they might also be saved. Jesus is the helper of the helpless and the only One who is able to save those who cannot save themselves. You may remember Romans Chapter 5, verse 6. "For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly." "For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die." "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Certainly this is good news to the greatest of sinners, and to the weakest of mankind. For not only will they be saved from Adam's sin and their own sins, but they shall know the power of His resurrection working in their lives according to all the needs, both spiritual and physical, that they have. If they are weak they are made strong in their weakness. If they die, they shall be raised from the dead in great power and glory. Listen to verses 9 and 10 of Romans 5, "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him." "For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life." That is; His resurrection life. These are very sure mercies which are, and will be given to all who believe in Jesus.

Listen to Acts 13: 27-34 - "For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him." "And though they found no cause for death in Him, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death." "Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb." "But God raised Him from the dead. He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people." "And we declare to you glad tidings - that promise which was made to the fathers." "God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus." "As it is written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.'" "And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: 'I will give you the sure mercies of David.'" You see; there is a reality of Christ's resurrection in our hearts today that is speaking to us, as well, and God is saying, "You now, have the power to cleanse yourselves from all

defilement of flesh and spirit and to perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord,” as it says in 2 Corinthians 7: 1. We now have the life of Christ in our souls, and that life is pushing the sin out, putting it off, and putting it to death. What greatness of power there is in Christ deal with your sins; what grace, what joy and peace that we have in believing in Him. Does Christ’s death make you sad for your sins? Then Christ’s life and presence ought to be making you glad that He triumphed over sin and death. His power to bring joy and gladness to the heart which has burdened by sin, ought not to be denied. Do not let unbelief rob you of the joy which Christ died to purchase. What Christ has done for you once as a sinner, and now as one of His saints, ought always to be believed; that we might become stronger in our faith, and stronger in our service to Him. Kiss the Son today, and give Him thanks as you approach the Lord's Table and partake of the emblems of His giving for you, His flesh and His blood so that you might really know His power working in your life, and know His presence with you in all of your following Him. No matter what you are going through, this remembrance that He is raised from the dead should make you glad this day. You know that because He was raised, that He has triumphed over sin and death; and so He will do for you, and in you. Truly this ought to make you glad, even full of joy. Let's come forward now and prepare ourselves to receive His blessing in the Supper.

**Then 3rdly- To “Kiss the Son” means that we want to be wise in the way that we live.** These unbelieving kings are being warned to be wise, with the wisdom that leads to salvation. Verse 9 says of those who will oppose and reject Christ's kingdom's advance, "You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel. " "Now therefore, be wise, O kings; be instructed, you judges of the earth." "Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling." "Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, when His wrath is kindled but a little." "Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him." Here we have a warning and a blessing. A warning for those who will not "Kiss the Son." And a blessing for those who will "Kiss" Him. To "Kiss" Christ is spoken of here as the wise thing to do. It is a very wise thing to do; to trust in Christ in the way of submitting to all that He says, and receiving all that He has done for sinners like you and me. When we come to this table it is that we are saying that we want to be wise with the wisdom that is found in Christ; we want to be instructed by His life, His death, His resurrection, and by His Spirit working in us in relation to the Word of God. We want to live in the Bible way. We want to serve the Lord with holy fear, and rejoice with trembling lest we find ourselves not walking worthy of that holy calling wherewith He has called us; not living up to and living out all the grace and truth that have been given to us. Those of this text are told to “Kiss the Son,” lest they perish in the way. You and I who have come to Christ’s table "Kiss the Son" in fond and affectionate remembrance of what He has done for us. We have received the atonement. We have received the reconciliation. We no longer fear God’s wrath, because our faith in Christ has brought peace between God and ourselves. We are here; thankful not only to remember what He has done on the cross for us; but we

are thankful for what He has done and is doing in our hearts every day. We do rejoice with trembling that we can "Kiss the Son. Now we must ask ourselves, "Have I confessed all of my sins which I have committed in the last month since I last partook of this Supper?" "Have I kept short accounts with God?" "Have I wrestled with all the issues of why I committed those sins, and pleaded with God for the grace to forsake them entirely?" Have I pleaded with God to make me stronger and more faithful in my obedience to His Word? Have I asked Him that I might follow Him in all humility and learn to do His will in everything, no matter what it might cost me? Then I think that you are ready to partake of the Supper. As a believer in Christ, Christ bids you come and dine with Him now. Do not fear that somehow He will not be able to change you and make you more like Himself in those areas that you now see yourself as weak. He is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." It is Christ's wounds which plead for you before the Father's throne; that you who are weak and sinful shall be changed and become more like your perfect and holy Savior.