**“Flickering Lamps – Christ & His Church” (Blackaby)**

**Week 6: Christ’s Pre-Eminence and His Church**

**November 11, 2020**

**What does it mean for Christ to be head of His church and how must the church operate to demonstrate that Christ is the head?**

“Christ is the Head of the Church. For a congregation to be healthy, Christ must be the focal point of everything they do.” (120)

1. **The Alpha and the Omega (Rev. 1:5-8)**

“When churches lose sight of the risen Christ, people begin to behave as if the church belongs to them, rather than to Christ.” (122)

“Always minister with the profound awareness that you are representing the King of kings and that eternity may be at stake for your listeners.”

“The key to a successful church is keeping Christ the center (head) of everything you do.” (124)

**Three Areas in which churches must give Christ pre-eminence**

1. **God’s Glory**

**Is. 42:8** “I am Yahweh, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another.”

**1 Peter 4:11** “If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

“A church’s highest achievement is not to construct the most beautiful facility in the city…Rather, its measurement for success is the glory it brings to God. Because our greatest calling is to glorify Christ, perhaps one of our greatest sins is to rob Him of the glory He deserves.” (125)

1. **Christ’s Lordship**

“Not only should He receive glory from the church, He also expects total surrender to His will.”

1. **Christ’s Character**

When was the last time you asked someone to forgive you?

When was the last time you washed someone’s feet?

What is your reaction when you do not get your way?

What is your attitude to those who believe differently than you?

**Conclusion:** “We surrendered our control, our vision, our preferences, our comfort, and our opinions to Him and allowed Him to function as our Head.”