

Submit to Christ the King
Psalm 2

In India, farmers still use elephants to do heavy work like pulling up stumps, pushing over trees, and howling logs. How do these farmers keep their elephants from wandering off at night? All the farmer has to do is tie a small rope around the right leg of the elephant and attach the twine around a wooded post in the ground. With that the elephant stays in that spot all night. One step and the elephant would snap the rope. One kick and the post would go flying. The elephant not wandering off has nothing to do with the rope around its leg.

It has everything to do with the shackle around its mind. When the elephant was a baby, its owner put an iron chain around its right ankle and hooked the chain to a big tree and would just leave it there for days, weeks, and months. The baby elephant would strain and pull until the chain cut to the bone. Finally the elephant would just give up. It accepted that it can't go anywhere. The owner would then change the chain for a small rope and the tree for a post in the ground because now when the elephant felt any resistance on its leg it gave up.

The mind of the elephant had been deceived into thinking it is shackled and helpless. Satan has convinced people that they are bound in their sin. To submit to God is impossible. But with God's help they could break the twine that binds them.

Instead of submitting, they rebel and remain shackled.

Psalm Two presents Christ as the King to whom we must submit.

Psalm Two was quoted at Jesus' baptism in Mark 1:11 when Christ started His earthly ministry of presenting Himself as King to Israel.

Psalm Two was quoted at Jesus' transfiguration in Matthew 17:5. To those at the transfiguration, Jesus said, "There be some standing here, who shall not taste death, until they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom." At the transfiguration, they saw the kingdom in miniature.

Psalm Two was quoted concerning Christ's resurrection in Acts 13:33 when God began to exalt His Son who had humbled Himself.

Psalm Two was quoted concerning Christ's ascension in Hebrews 1:5 where Christ now is "King of kings and Lord of lords" according to 1 Timothy 6:15.

Psalm Two was quoted concerning Christ's High Priesthood in Hebrews 5:6.

Psalm Two was quoted concerning Christ's Second Coming in Revelation 19:15 when He returns as King of kings and Lord of lords.

There are four different individuals speaking in Psalm Two. All four of these individuals are responding uniquely to Christ the King.

1. The Rebels Speak in Psalm 2:1-3.

Since Genesis three, submission to God's rule has been presented as a restriction to one's freedom. God does not enslave. Sin enslaves. When Christ presented Himself as King, the people responded, "We will not have this man reign over us."

2. The Universal King Speaks in 2:4-6 and says, "Too late I have already enthroned Him as King."

3. The Son of David, the King of kings speaks in Psalm 2:7-9 in submission to God the Father or the Universal King.

4. The Psalmists speaks in Psalm 2:10-12 inviting the rebels to submit to Christ as their King.

There are Five Commands Given for the Rebel to Obey. If you and I obey these commands the shackles will be broken.

1. "Be Wise"

A. The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God."

"The atheism in question is more practical than theoretical, not so much denying God's existence as his relevance."¹

B. The wisest of all decisions is to trust Christ as Savior.

2. "Be Instructed"

A. To trust Christ, we must be instructed from God's Word as Paul reminded Timothy in 2nd Timothy 3:14-15.

B. How much are we exposing our children, youth, and ourselves to the instruction of God's Word?

Morgan Spurlock ate only at McDonalds for 30 days and produced the low budget documentary *Super-Size Me*. Of Spurlock got Super-sized. He also gained 25 pounds and wrecked his health. His blood sugar and blood pressure skyrocketed and his liver filled with fat. All three of the medical doctors monitoring him advised him to stop his high fat diet. One scene reveals the success of McDonalds' marketing and impact on the next generation. Spurlock met with schoolchildren and held up pictures of famous people to see if the children could name them. Spurlock held a picture of George Washington and some but not all of the children could recognize him. All of the children very excitedly could identify Ronald McDonald. None of the children, however, recognized a picture of Jesus Christ. McDonalds is not to be blamed for this lack of knowledge. The church is to be blamed.

Carson, D. A. (1994). *New Bible commentary: 21st century edition* (4th ed.) (Ps 14). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA: Inter-Varsity Press.

Paul said with great confidence, “The gospel is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16). We saw the evidence of that in V.B.S. when several trusted Christ as Savior because they were taught the saving Gospel of Christ. We saw it again at Camp when the Gospel was preached and also witnessed by the counselors in the rooms.

3. “Serve the Lord with fear”

Notice the sequence: Get connected to God. Get involved in serious Bible study. Start serving others.

In our worship service, you can worship and get connected to God.

In our small groups, like Sunday school, you can build relationships and grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

In our local church ministries, you can serve the Lord and others. There are many ministry opportunities such as AWANA, Choir, Hospitality, Children’s Church, etc., in which you can serve.

4. “Rejoice with Trembling”

True joy flows out of all of the above. I appreciate all who help in VBS and Camp as well as the other ministries in our church with joy and smiles.

5. “Kiss the Son” or Submit to the Son.

In 1 Kings 19:18, God said to Elijah that He had seven thousand who had not bowed their knees to Baal nor had kissed him. Bowing in submission is equated to kissing Baal.

Only two people kissed Christ during His earthly ministry. Judas Iscariot kissed Christ but only went through the motions of submission. He betrayed Christ with his kiss. The other person who kissed Christ was the sinful woman in Luke 7:36-50. She bowed before Christ, washed His feet with her tears, anointed his feet with expensive oil, and kissed his feet. Her submission was expressed in a brokenness over her sins and her worship poured in her giving.

Psalm 2 ends the way Psalm 1 ends with a warning in the word “perish.” God warns because He does not want sinners to perish. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Psalm 2 ends the way Psalm 1 begins with a blessing. It is God’s desire to bless not to judge.