

Friday · May 15, 2026

Every Knee Shall Bow

Philippians 2:10–11 — *So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Heaven. Earth. Under the earth. Paul covers every dimension of existence and says: Christ is Lord over all of it. There is no corner of creation that stands outside his authority. There is no power — angelic or demonic, earthly or spiritual — that does not ultimately bow the knee to Jesus.

This is what Peter is pointing to in 1 Peter 3 when he speaks of Christ's proclamation to the spirits in prison. The scope of the resurrection is not limited to what happens in your heart on Sunday morning, as wonderful as that is. The resurrection of Jesus Christ has cosmic implications. It is the event around which all of history pivots. Every power that thought it was beyond Christ's reach found out otherwise on Easter morning.

For those who believe, this is not a threatening reality — it is an astonishing comfort. You do not serve a regional deity or a tribal God. You serve the Lord of lords, whose authority extends to every place your life will ever take you. The workplace where you feel powerless. The diagnosis that frightens you. The relationship that feels beyond repair. The fear that visits you at 3 in the morning. None of it lies outside the reach of the one at whose name every knee bows.

Paul says every tongue will one day confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Some will confess it in joy; some in dread. But the confession will be universal and complete. For us, the good news is that we get to make that confession now — not as a reluctant acknowledgment forced from us, but as the greatest freedom we have ever known.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to you that Christ's lordship extends not just to 'heaven' but also to 'under the earth' — to everything?
2. Is there an area of your life right now where you find it hard to believe Christ is truly Lord? What would it look like to hand that area to him?
3. How does the promise that 'every knee will bow' give you courage to live faithfully in a world that does not always honor Christ?

Closing Prayer

Jesus, you are Lord — not just of the easy parts of our lives, but of everything. We confess it now, not under compulsion but with joy: you are Lord. Rule over the places in us that still resist you. Rule over the fears we have not surrendered. Rule over this family and this home. And let our lives be a small echo of the great confession every tongue will one day make. Amen.

Family Action Item

Draw or print a simple world map. As a family, pray over different places on the map — nations, cities, people who do not yet know Christ — declaring together that Jesus is Lord over all of it. Pray for one missionary or international ministry your church supports by name.