

Title: The Authority and Power

Text: 1 Peter 3: 22

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**Subject:** The Authority and Power

**Proposition:** The GodMan, Christ Jesus, the Son of God, is the Authority and Power over all.

**1 Peter 3: 22: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.**

The Spirit of God has been teaching his people through Peter to submit to the powers that be.

1 Peter 2: 13: Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; 14: Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

He goes on to include servants to masters, wives to their husbands, the church to Christ's undershepherds. It goes for children to parents. Submit to every person in authority that Christ our God and Savior has put over us.

1 Peter 2: 15: For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: 16: As free, and not using *your* liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. 17: Honour all *men*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

By the Spirit of God, believers are to do so knowing that in submission to the powers that be we are submitting to God. We submit to those in authority as the servants of God knowing we are submitting to Christ our King.

**1 Peter 3: 22: Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.**

Christ is the preeminent Authority and Power ruling every authority and power, visible and invisible. Christ is the preeminent Angel ruling every angel, good and evil, even ruling satan himself. Christ is the Chief Shepherd ruling every undershepherd, including those he sends and those he did not send. Christ is the Husband ruling every husband. Christ is the Father ruling every father. Christ is the King ruling every king. Christ is the Master ruling every master (employer).

The Lord Jesus made these offices of authority and power and put those in authority to glorify himself as is the preeminent Authority and Power who rules over all.

Colossians 1: 16: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18: And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence. 19: For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell;

Colossians 2: 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Brethren, this is our peace as we go about our day-to-day in this world. The very one in whom every believer is complete is ruling every person in authority for you and me and every member of his body, his church.

Ephesians 1: 20: ...he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*, 21: Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22: And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, 23: Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

**SUBMIT TO THOSE GOD HAS GIVEN TO TEACH YOU THE SCRIPTURES**

**2 Timothy 1: 5: I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also...3: 15: And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.**

Paul reminded Timothy that it is a blessing of God when Christ gives us faithful men and women to teach us the scriptures, such as a faithful pastor as Paul was to Timothy or a faithful grandmother or mother as Timothy had been given.

The Lord blessed me to know, not only all my grandparents but also my great grandparents, except one. Some of them were sanctified by God, given spiritual discernment, to know and believe on Christ. But on both sides of my family, my grandparents and great grandparents believed the absolutely sovereignty of God. So from a young age, they taught me the scriptures. They were a gift of God to me.

The first thing they taught me was the importance of respecting those God put in authority, beginning with my parents and with my pastor. They showed me from the scriptures the reason was because if God saved me it would be through the preaching of the gospel.

Each of my grandparents and great grandparents used scripture to teach me to respect my pastor, to attend the preaching of the gospel, to pay attention, to follow along in scripture and then to study what I heard preached. They taught me that God rules, teaches, corrects and grows the pastor Christ sends the same as all those he saves. So they taught me to submit to my pastor.

Hebrews 13: 17: Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you.

Also, they taught me to submit to all others in offices of authority. They showed me from the scriptures that Christ is the Authority who ordained every office of authority and fills all those offices of authority. They showed me from the scripture that it is Christ who rules all those in authority. Those who knew and believed Christ taught me from the scripture that God rules all in authority for God's glory and the good of his people.

Romans 13: 1: Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2: Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3: For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to *execute* wrath upon him that doeth evil. 5: Wherefore *ye* must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. 6: For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. 7: Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

I understand how perilous times come, how each generation "waxes worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." My parents were married fifty-five years and my grandparents and great grandparents even longer. They each showed me what it was to submit to those God put in authority. I am thankful to Christ because Christ gave me them.

But I had many friends who were "latch key children." They had one parent at home who was already at work when they awoke and still at work when they got home from school. Most were not taught the scriptures, certainly not taught to respect authority, certainly not taught Christ is the Authority and Power over all. So some grew up and had great problems submitting to authority. A few rebelled against authority and got in trouble with the police.

Be sure to understand. It is not that we are simply products of our environment. Every child of Adam is born with a heart that is enmity against God, that naturally despises Christ's authority and power. So we cannot blame our environment.

But faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. So a child is certainly worse off that was never taught the scriptures, never taught that the authorities are ordained of God and if they never had examples in the home growing up. It is one of the reasons in our day we see a disdain for authority in every office God has ordained.

2 Timothy 3: 1: This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. 2: For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3: Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, 4: Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; 5: Having a form of godliness, but denying the Power thereof: from such turn away.

## **CHRIST IS THE POWER OF GOD GODLINESS**

**1 Corinthians 1: 24...unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.**

No matter our upbringing, Christ is able to save them are his because Christ is the Power of God unto salvation. Christ is the Power of godliness.

He is the Power and Wisdom of how God can be both just and the Justifier of his people. Christ is the Power who honored God's holy law by fulfilling it for God his Father and for his people. Christ's blood made God just to show mercy to his people. And Christ's blood justified his people, making us the righteousness of God in him.

Christ is the Power of God who magnifies his law in the hearts of his people. He is the Power who sends the Holy Spirit and gives a dead sinner a new heart and teaches us we are ruined in sin, that we must be found in Christ's righteousness alone through faith. Christ is the Power who imparts unto the sinner all things that pertain to life and godliness, by whom we are kept and preserved in faith unto that day.

Sinners with a form of godliness attribute godliness to man and thus they deny that Christ is the Power of godliness. Unregenerate man is proud and covets glory for self which belongs to Christ. Therefore naturally religious men will not bow and give the glory to Christ. The sinner will not have Christ reign over him.

## THE GOSPEL IS POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION

Romans 1: 2: [Paul declared the gospel is that] **(Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) 3: Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4: And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead 5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: 6: Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:...15: So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. 16: For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17: For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.**

Stay under the preaching of the gospel of Christ because the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. The gospel is the power of God unto salvation because through it Christ reveals he is the righteousness God has provided for his people.

The one who descended and accomplished the redemption of all God's elect is he who ascended with all power as both God and Man in one person. He gives his pastors "for the edifying of the body of Christ, Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Eph 4: 12-13) Christ assembles his people, he unites his people and he grows his people through the preaching of the gospel. If you believe on Christ, it is because Christ assembled you and taught you the gospel.

Ephesians 4: 16: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to [Christ's] effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Colossians 2: 19: [Christ is] the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

Unregenerate sinners with a form of godliness, the same as those who are outside of religion with no form, hate the gospel of Christ because it gives no room for man to glory. Natural man hates the gospel because it gives Christ all the glory as the Power and Wisdom of God. But to you who are saved Christ and the preaching of the gospel is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1: 18: For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God....24...unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

## CONTINUE IN SUBMISSION TO CHRIST BY STAYING UNDER THE GOSPEL

**2 Timothy 3: 14: But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; 15: And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.**

Christ is the Power by whom Timothy learned the gospel—"knowing of whom thou has learned." It was Christ who taught Timothy through the gospel. Christ is the Power who called Timothy's family members and used them to teach him the scriptures.

2 Timothy 1: 5: I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

Some of you may not have had family to teach you like Timothy had. But here you sit today under the preaching of the gospel. Who did that? Christ did. "From Christ the whole body is fitly framed together." Christ draws his people under the sound of the gospel. Do not take that lightly! To you the Lord says, "continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them...the holy scriptures,...are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

As you see this world waxing worse and worse, deceived and being deceived, know that Christ is ruling all. Submit to those that are in authority.

Your former companions think it strange that you do not run with them and take pleasure in sins as you once did. The gospel stains the pride of the unregenerate sinner because we are all proud and self-righteous by nature. But God purposed to stain our pride by sending Christ to do all in our salvation and to be all in our salvation.

Isaiah 23: 9: The LORD of hosts hath purposed it, to stain the pride of all glory, and to bring into contempt all the honourable of the earth.

1 Corinthians 1: 29: [God saves through the preaching of the gospel, by Christ and him crucified] 1Co 1:29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.

So you will be persecuted. Christ said we would.

Matthew 10: 34: Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35: For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36: And a man's foes *shall be* they of his own household. 37: He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. 38: And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. 39: He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

But be not shaken by this world. Submit to those in authority, knowing Christ put them in authority, knowing Christ rules them for the good of his people. Daniel 4 is spoken of Christ our Savior.

Daniel 4:35: And all the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and *among* the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

Child of God, look to Christ. He shall keep you by his power and his wisdom!

2 Corinthians 13:4: For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you.

2 Timothy 1:8: Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

1 Peter 1:5: Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

If you have never believed on the Lord Jesus, believe on him today and rest in his righteousness, casting all your care upon him. And child of God, you leave here with this one thought in your heart, "THY GOD REIGNETH!" Just a few more times around the sun and Christ will call out the last chosen, redeemed child into the fold.

1 Corinthians 15: 24: Then *cometh* the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25: For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26: The last enemy *that* shall be destroyed *is* death.

Christ Jesus our God and Savior "is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him." Christ is the Authority and Power over all. So "finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT" (Eph 6: 10).

**Amen!**