

Authority
John 17:1-8
8-29-2010

Jesus is Lord! This is a statement of fact, He is Lord. Since this is a true statement, how should we live? Jesus speaks of his position, not with pomp and arrogance, but with certainty and finality. He has been given positional power. Jesus, before His return to heaven, declared to His disciples that “all authority” had been given to Him. (**Mat.28:18**)

This truth has been referred to multiple times throughout the rest of the New Testament. The following scriptures defend this truth: **1Cor.15:25**, **Eph.1:20**, **Phil.2:10**, **Heb.1:2**, **Heb.2:8-9**, and **1Pet.3:22**

Jesus spoke of this authority having been given to him by the Father and with that authority the responsibility to exercise it. (He was given a task to accomplish with it.) In **John 5:21-29** Jesus explains a little about this job of His. He is to execute judgment on those in the world. Daniel was given a vision concerning these truths that God would give His authority to the “Son of Man” (**Dan.7:13-14**)

David also spoke of this future in **Psalm 2:6-12** with sound advice on how to survive with success. (verses 10-12) It is a wise choice to choose to serve rather than refuse and be forced later into subjection. Of this you can be sure, every knee will bow before Him. (**Phil.2:10**) For all who are His children, we bow before Him because He has called us into His family and we have accepted. For all those who refuse His invitation, they will be forced to their knees after their defeat.

Paul explains Jesus’ position of authority as one who reigns. (**1Cor.15:25** (24-28)) With this position of reigning

is the responsibility to subjugate, and subdue, and judge. Peter also confirms Jesus position of power and the fact that all things have been subject to Him including the heavenly angels. (**1Pet.3:21-22**) (Also see **Heb.2:8-9**)

Why is this position of Authority that Jesus was given and that He exercises so important? Our peace, prosperity and future are intimately linked to the reigning Jesus. Jesus demonstrated in His life how to please His Father who is also our heavenly Father. (**Jn.8:29**) Jesus did what was pleasing; He obeyed the Father’s wishes, thus setting an example for us to follow.

Paul communicates this advice, or command; “...find out what pleases the Lord.” (**Eph.5:10**) What pleases Jesus is for His people, His brethren to live their lives in conformity to His will, which of course is the Father’s will. (**1Jn.2:3-6**, **3:21-24**, **5:3-5**) So what is the distinction between us and them, that is between the lost and the redeemed? The redeemed are those who live in conformity to God’s will. (**Rev.12:17**) Even satan knows who he is warring against, he wars against the obedient. The disobedient are those who he has already made subject to himself as their lord through rebellion against God’s will, and they will perish with him.

So the first and most important thing to work on in your life in order for your life to be truly successful is to live under the Authority of the King Eternal and His name is Jesus. The good news is that Jesus has provided everything for your success. (**2Pet.1:3-11**) (a disclaimer is needed here: godliness is not to be considered the pathway to wealth. (**1Tim.6:3-10**))

Do you love Jesus? Do you want His power to protect you? (**Jn.17:11-12**) Then live under His Authority. Obey.