

## **Class 203 Introduction to Spiritual Warfare: Session 2 Full Notes**

*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. (1 John 3:8b)*

### **Session Two: The Victory of Christ Jesus**

#### **2.1 The Victory of God in Every Realm**

##### **2.1.1. The Victory of God in the Cross was foreordained from eternity**

The death and resurrection of Christ was a strategy in the mind of God meant to deal simultaneously with several problems in Creation. It was also meant to magnify God the Son so that He as well as the Father would be glorified by the creation.

In His infinite foreknowledge God knew that Man would fall and so it was planned from all eternity that the Second Person of the Godhead would enter the stream of history in order to accomplish the goals of redemption. For this reason He is called:

*... the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8b)*

##### **2.1.2. The dreadful effects of the Fall**

The Fall of Man created multiple predicaments for the human race – none of which had any apparent solution!

First and foremost was the warping of Man's very nature through sin, resulting in spiritual death and separation from God. God had warned Man of this consequence.

*But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. (Gen. 2:17)*

Sin spread through the human race and, because all men are born under Adam's headship, it was transmitted to all by virtue of their relationship to him.

*...by one man's offence death reigned by one... (Rom. 5:17)*

Second, the effects of sin were seen in the physical realm. Death entered into Creation. Once immortal [not subject to death], Man was now mortal. Once clothed with glory, Man was expelled from God's Presence. God also spoke curses against certain aspects of the Creation, affecting men and women.

*...by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin... (Rom. 5:12)*

The final outworking of this hideous process was Man's condemnation to Hell as he could not be in the presence of a holy God whether before or after death.

The third terrible consequence of sin as we have seen before was Man's being placed in a state of servitude to Satan, as the Devil assumed Man's mantle of headship over the created order of this planet.

*And the devil said unto Him [Christ], "All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them; for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it." (Luke 4:6)*

### **2.1.3. The hopelessness of Man's situation**

The Bible in many places sets out the concept of representative or delegated authority. All authority comes from God. And, although each person stands before God on his own in respect of ultimate judgment, in this life delegated authorities have the power by their decisions to bind those who are lesser in authority. This principle is clearly seen in human governments, families, other organizations and relationships of various kinds. God always honors authority, for He is its source, and to dishonor delegated authority would be to discredit Himself. For example, God accepted Adam's naming of the animals. This shows that God honors those whom He authorizes – and also shows how great was the authority of Adam!

The hopelessness, then, of Man's predicament is apparent. Man gave away his authority to another by disobedience to God. How can Man regain what he has lost? There is no apparent way to restore fellowship with God. Even God is limited in this situation. Assuming God even wished to help us, He cannot simply create a new Adam from the earth, for He has cursed it. In order to save Man, God must find a way to address multiple serious problems at the same time, all the while maintaining perfect justice to all parties, being infinitely just and fair to the demands of His holiness, to Man, and even to the Devil.

If Man is to be saved, God must:

- Destroy Satan's authority to rule over Man
- Remit the penalty for the sins individual men have committed
- Break the power of sin to pull men away from God
- Destroy death
- Place Man again in a right relationship with Him that will allow full fellowship between God and Man

### **2.1.4. God's Solution: The Incarnation**

God in His infinite Wisdom decreed that Christ would accomplish the goal of redeeming Man from sin, death, Hell, and Satan. How?

Christ would be the "seed of the woman," and be virgin-born, making Him sinless. We do not understand this dynamic but apparently this insulated Him in some way from the transmission of humanity's sin. We should not suppose that the sex act itself is sinful but apparently the taint of what we call "original sin" is transmitted through the father's headship.

*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. (Gen. 3:15)*

Christ also walked without ever falling into sin, thus preserving Him in any way from falling under Satan's sway personally, as Adam had done.

He would become a new head or leader for the human race in place of Adam (a Second Adam) for all who might be willing to accept His headship instead of Adam's. As we derived mortal life from one, we would derive spiritual life from the second:

*And so it is written, "The first man Adam was made a living soul;" the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. (1 Cor. 15:45)*

As a man He would offer to pay the price of Man's debt to God, a debt which neither God nor an angel could pay, since Man was the guilty party and God had pronounced sentence against Man. His death would provide a way for God in Him to destroy death itself as He took death's power away from Satan:

*Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. (Heb. 2:14-17)*

### **2.1.5. What happened at the Cross**

God put Christ forward as a propitiation or sin-offering, satisfying His just wrath against sin. (1 John 2:1-2)

Death itself was destroyed and its authority given over to Christ.

*...I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. (Rev. 1:18)*

Satan's authority was undone. The manner of this destruction is debated by scholars. One theory is that God had pronounced judgment on Satan for spilling innocent blood – for up until now, all of Mankind had been justly condemned as guilty. It does not appear that Satan completely understood what would result from Christ's sacrifice.

*But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. (1 Cor. 2:7-8)*

Man's authority to operate in the heavenly realms was also cleansed and restored:

*And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us (Heb. 9:22-24)*

#### **2.1.6. Summarizing the benefits of the Cross to Man**

Our sins are remitted, or sent away. Not only are sins sent away but the power of sin itself is broken.

We have received a new nature through the Holy Spirit's regeneration, and have actually been adopted as sons and daughters of God.

We have been given the gift of righteousness – so we are more than just “acquitted!”

#### **2.1.7. The Elevation of Christ**

Christ's resurrection demonstrated His righteousness and the efficacy of the atonement. In the first place, God restored to Christ the full measure of His glory and sonship. Indeed, Christ was raised to sit at the Father's right hand – a place of authority and a position in which He executes the Father's Will:

*For unto which of the angels said he at any time, "Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee?" And again, "I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?"*

*And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, "And let all the angels of God worship him."*

*And of the angels he saith, "Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire." But unto the Son he saith, "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows." And, "Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail."*

*But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? (Heb. 1:5-13)*

The Name of Jesus was also invested with authority in every realm of creation.

*And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted*

*him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:8-11)*

*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, "All power [lit., **exousia**, authority] is given unto me in heaven and in earth." (Matt. 28:18)*

## **2.2 The Authority of Christ in His Church**

### **2.2.1. Jesus viewed His mission as one of bringing the Kingdom of God into the earth**

Christ came as a "Divine Invader," doing more than forgiving our sins, as wonderful as that was – He came presenting and bringing the Kingdom of God as an "alternate lifestyle" sent from Heaven. He also empowered us to live in that realm.

His Spirit-anointed acts were "signs of the Kingdom" – proofs that in Him the Kingdom had come and acts which also served as invitations to share in the Kingdom. The invitation to be in the Kingdom – like the power of the Kingdom – is not limited to matters of personal sin alone but is an invitation to live in the whole realm of God's wholeness and Christ's victory and power over everything that is against God's decree:

*Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." (Mk. 1:14-15)*

*But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. (Matt. 12:28)*

*And he sent them to preach [announce] the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. (Luke 9:2)*

*And heal the sick that are in it and say to them, "The kingdom of God is come near to you." (Luke 10:9)*

*For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power. (1 Cor. 4:20)*

### **2.2.2. Jesus has given His Name and authority to the Church to enable the Church to act as His agent in the ongoing expansion of His Kingdom in this world**

Jesus has given His authority to the Church, but this authority is linked to the continued proclamation of the Kingdom. As we have seen, only a part of this message concerns salvation in the sense we commonly think of it: forgiveness of sins and right relationship with God. Contained within the grant of authority is the command to make disciples of all the *ethne* or ethnic groups in the world.

*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, "All power [exousia] is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Amen. (Matt. 28:19-20)*

This includes authority over demons:

*"And these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen. (Mark 16:17-20)*

### **2.2.3. The full proclamation of the Kingdom of God**

What does the Scripture reveal about the Church's mission and demonstration of the Kingdom of God? Jesus had every confidence that the gates of Hell would not prevail against the Church. Jesus also said that the end of the age would not come until the good news about the Kingdom had been preached to all the ethnic groups as a witness.

*And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. (Matt. 24:14)*

Contrary to some typical end-times scenarios, Man's rebellion will be mostly conscious and willing. This speaks to the success the Church will have in declaring Christ.

*And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Rev. 6:15-17)*

Christ's power and authority are seen in His people as they continue to extend His Kingdom in the nations of the earth:

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. (John 14:12)*

Christ's own view of apostolic ministry (and all our ministries as we act as an apostolic "sent" people) is instructive. Our mission, as seen in these words He spoke to Paul, is:

*To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me. (Acts 26:18)*