

ECCLESIASTES

HOW CHRIST MAKES MEANINGLESS THINGS MATTER

VerticalLife Church Discussion Notes

FEBRUARY 19, 2017

The Power and Presence of Christ

BY PASTOR JONATHAN FOSTER

Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

THE AUTHORITY OF CHRIST:

Ephesians 1:19-22

19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church

Colossians 1:16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Colossians 2:10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority

Jesus demonstrates power over demons— Mark 5:1-10 and Luke 8:26-39 Story of man possessed with Legion. Jesus Demonstrates power of Sickness and blindness Jesus Demonstrated authority over sin-- Matthew 9:1-8 ALL authority in HEAVEN and IN EARTH

THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST:

II. Why is this good news for us??

- a. I can think of many reasons, but on a very personal level he says something here that is so intimate—"I AM WITH YOU"
- b. So what are you going to face that the one who has authority over ALL can handle??
- c. The issue that we have in realizing this is that we fail to realize that what Jesus handles will be for His Glory and our Good—Not for our comfort and earthy ease!!
 - i. Let me Show you a few other promises—
 1. **2 Tim 3:12**-- *Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,*
 2. **Matthew 10:22** *"You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved.*
 3. **Philippians 1:29** For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, Jesus never said you will have a life of ease, but what he did promise is when you struggle, suffer, and walk through the messiness of this life I am with you. When you go in my name to the darkest parts of the world I am with you. When you encounter demons, sickness, famine, fear, anxiety, sorrow, and have the greatest mountains to climb I am with you!! When your marriage struggles and as a parent you are loosing it—I am with you!! When the world is against you and the odds are devastatingly against you—"I AM WITH YOU!!" and now we can get a better glimpse of why Paul wrote, "When God is for you who can be against you, Who could dare lay a charge against God's elect!!"

ALL THINGS REALLY ARE POSSIBLE:

III. Therefore the concluding point is that because of HIS power and HIS presence everything He has commanded me to do IS POSSIBLE!!! a. GO b. Make Disciples by Teaching them what I taught you c. Baptize Them In other words for us as Vertical Life Church our Mission is defined from this passage of scripture. We say we exist to —Spread the Glory of God By multiplying disciples and multiplying churches here and around the world!! Because of the Power of Jesus and the Presence of Jesus this is possible.

HOMEWORK--QUESTIONS TO THINK ON AND ANSWER:

1. How do I walk tap into this power of Christ knowing this power lives inside of me?
2. What does it look like to be filled with the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Christ) and to "walk in the spirit"—Galatians 5
3. How can I be intentional about spending time acknowledging the presence of Christ?
4. What ways throughout the day can I remind myself "Jesus, the one with all the authority in Heaven and in Earth, is with me?"
5. Knowing The power and presence of Christ is with you, how will that impact you on a personal level as you walk throughout your day?