

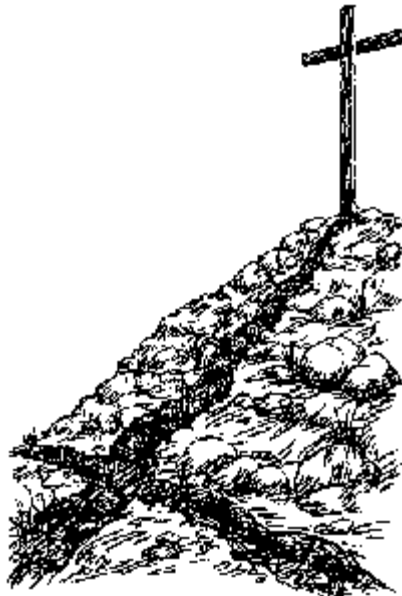
All Power

Matthew 28:18-20

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(Matthew 28:18-20 KJV) "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. {19} Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} 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."

Introduction

In a recent news article I found at Charisma Magazine online[©], I read that a local Church of God has begun to copy the format of "Late Night With David Letterman" in their Wednesday night services. The Church says that the Pastor acts as if he were David Letterman, opens with a monologue, has a "co host", and invites guests to the stage to interview them. The Church reports an increase in the number of attendees in the Wednesday night service."

Religion Journal[©] on November 30, 2003 reported that President Bush said "We all worship the same God". The quote:

"Bush, speaking at a joint news conference with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, was discussing

the intersection of his Christian faith and the war on terrorism when a reporter asked him: "Mr. President, when you talk about peace in the Middle East, you've often said that freedom is granted by the Almighty. Some people who share your beliefs don't believe that Muslims worship the same Almighty. I wonder about your views on that and Mr. Prime Minister's - as a man also of faith, I'd like to get your reaction to that."

Bush replied: "I do say that freedom is the Almighty's gift to every person. ... Freedom is not America's gift to the world. It's much greater than that, of course. And I believe we worship the same God."

Baptist Press © reported on December 2, 2003:

".. Barna Research, which found that just 4 percent of American adults have a biblical world view. Additionally, only 9 percent of those categorized as born-again Christians have a biblical world view, Barna said.

One of the most prominent modern-day world views is post modernism -- a belief system that rejects the notion of absolute truth. This is often expressed in the statement, "That may be true for you but it's not true for me."

Not surprisingly, the Barna research found that adults without a biblical world view and those with such a world view had vastly different views of immoral and unethical behavior. For instance, those without a biblical world view were:

-- Around 100 times more likely to endorse abortion (46 percent of those without a biblical world view believed it to be OK, compared to less than 1 percent of those with a biblical world view).

-- Around 80 times more likely to say exposure to pornography is morally acceptable (39 percent vs. less than one-half of 1 percent).

-- 31 times more likely to believe living together before marriage is morally acceptable (62 percent vs. 2 percent).

-- 15 times more likely to believe homosexual sex is acceptable (31 percent vs. 2 percent versus).

-- 18 times more likely to endorse drunkenness (36 percent vs. 2 percent).

I also recently read an article in Lifeway's "Facts and Trends"© magazine that reported on the rise of and growing popularity of Islam in America today. Islam is increasing in its followers by about 6% every year. In an article entitled, "Islam is

Filling The Void of a Retreating Church” Carl Ellis from the National Conference on Islam stated:

“The church in America has reduced the Gospel of the Kingdom to peddling personal fire insurance. As I talk to Muslims who have left the Church, I find they don’t feel the Church addresses their issues and needs -- yet the Bible speaks to every one of them”.

I suppose I could quote this text to show you that these people who left the Church were never saved in the first place. The Bible tells us:

(1 John 2:19 KJV) “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.”

This is true - they did go out from us to make manifest that they were never of us. Yet, even knowing this is true, my heart is saddened by the fact that around 85% of those who are now Muslim in America say that they came from a Christian Church background.

The message of this sermon today is not designed to chastise anyone, but to make us aware of the problem. There is a problem in America today, and the problem is that many who claim to be

Christian have *never been exposed to Christ*. When I say “Christian” and you say “Christian”, we may be saying the same word - but what we mean may not be the same. So let's define a Christian by starting at the source of Christianity. Let's start with Jesus Christ.

1. Jesus Alone Has Power

(Matthew 28:18-20 KJV) “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. {19} Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} 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.”

This is the root and foundation of Christianity - a Great Commission given to the Church by Jesus Christ. Before the Great Commission was given to us Jesus *based that Commission* on an absolute truth. He said:

Matthew 28:18 “... All power”

The New American Standard Version says, “**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and**

on earth.” The word *power* or *authority* in the Greek text is *exousia*, which means “authority or jurisdictional power, legal authority over another”.

Jesus Christ declared of Himself that He had *absolute and total jurisdictional authority* over all creatures in both Heaven and on earth. Further, Jesus said:

“.. *All power ... is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*”

The jurisdictional power that Jesus has over both Heaven and earth is not a power He seized or took to Himself. This is a power that was *given unto Him*. Only the Owner or Sovereign of a state can grant or give power to someone else. You must own the power in order to give it. Let me use an example:

If you were to ask me for a loan of some money, say \$5.00, that would be in my grasp. I could do that. I might have to write you a check, but I could do it. But let's say you wanted to buy some property - say a house, and needed \$100,000.00 to purchase what you wanted. If you asked me for the money could I tell you, “Sure, I'll loan you the money. Just go up to the Community Bank and tell them 'David sent you'”? If I told you that and

you went to the Community Bank with a paper sack to haul your money back - do you think you'd come back with anything at all? Absolutely not! I have no authority to loan money that belongs to the Community Bank. Only the Loan Officer of that bank has the authority to loan money for the bank. If anyone else tries to get money from the bank then its either called robbery or embezzlement. Unless the bank gives me the authority, I have no authority to make a loan of bank assets. Further, I cannot *exceed* that which has been granted to me. If the bank has a limit on what I am authorized to loan, then I can go no further than that limit.

Here's another example: Let's say you're coming to Church one Sunday morning and you're late for Sunday School. So to make sure you don't miss any of the lesson you drive too fast, and a Sheriff's deputy pulls you over for speeding. After you tell him your reason for speeding and that poor misled man still gives you a ticket, you come to Church and tell me about it. Do I have the *authority* or the *power* to tell you, “Oh, forget about that ticket. I'll void it out right now!”? No, absolutely not! I have no *power* or *jurisdictional authority* over that ticket. If you tear up the ticket on my say so I be sure to visit you in jail. But Beloved, the Sheriff's deputy was *granted*

authority by the Sheriff, who in turn was granted authority by the county government to give tickets. Unless I'm the Sheriff, or someone who oversees the Sheriff's office, I have no authority to rescind your ticket. You'll just have to pay it.

You must have *jurisdictional authority* or your actions are without weight, without direction, without substance. When Jesus said,

".. All power ... is given unto me in heaven and in earth."

He was saying two things. First, He was saying "I have jurisdictional power over what I am about to say". Jesus gave the Church the Great Commission because Jesus *had the power to issue such a Commission*. Second, He was saying "This power has been given to Me by the One who has *all oversight on salvation*. I did not seize this power. God the Father has *conveyed this power on Me*."

"Before His death, His appearances were to the general public - He stood in the midst of Scribes and Pharisees and publicans and sinners, and preached the glad tidings; but now He appeared only to His disciples, sometimes to one, at another time to two, on one occasion to about five hundred brethren

at once, but always to His disciples, and to them alone." C.H. Spurgeon

This is very important, Beloved. Jesus has *all* power because the *Only One* who could convey this power, the *One True God*, gave that power to *Jesus Christ and Him alone*. Jesus said, "I have it *all*. I don't have some of it. I don't have a little, and Mohammad has a little. I don't have some and Brigham Young has some. I don't have a portion and Taz Russel (founder of Jehovah's Witnesses) has a little. I don't have a bit more than Mary Baker Eddy (the founder of Christian Science) has. I don't have a smidgen, and the Pope has a little, too. Beloved, *I have it all, and all is all, and there is no more.*"

(John 14:6 KJV) "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Jesus Christ has been, is, and will always be the *only One* who has jurisdictional authority to extend the Gospel of Salvation. Jesus received His authority from God the Father, not Allah. That authority was never granted to anyone else outside of Jesus.

2. Jesus Alone Has Power To Forgive

(Matthew 28:18-19 KJV) "*.. Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. {19} Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost ..*"

What is the *power*, the *exousia* that Jesus Christ alone has been given? That's easy. Jesus Himself defines the power that He retains.

He has the power to forgive sins, both on earth and in Heaven. He's the *only One* with that power. In Matthew 9 Jesus healed a crippled man in a unique way. The Bible says:

(Matthew 9:5-6 KJV) "*For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? {6} But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.*"

Jesus declared that He is the One who has *exousia*, there's that word again, POWER, to forgive sins on the earth. God the Father granted God the Son that power.

Jesus Christ purchased salvation for us by His

death on the Cross. Because He shed His Blood for us:

(1 Peter 1:18-19 KJV) "*Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; {19} But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:*"

We who are now Christians were *once* the enemies of God but are *now*, *because* of the shed Blood of Christ, brought into the family of God. We are no longer the enemies of God, but His friends through Jesus. We will enter Heaven when we pass from this life. Jesus has all power to forgive and to save, because Jesus alone has purchased our salvation with His Blood. As the Bible says:

(Ephesians 1:6-7 KJV) "*To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. {7} In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*"

(Colossians 1:13-14 KJV) "*Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: {14} In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*"

Jesus Christ alone stands in the gap for the Christian.

I am sad about the number of Muslims who “left the Church” and joined that cult we call Islam. Perhaps these 85% that are reported by Lifeway© walked the aisle of a church and shook a preacher's hand, but never really understood what it meant to be a Christian. You see, a Christian is someone who has *repented and turned* away from the things of this world and who has *turned to Jesus Christ for salvation*. A Christian is - and this is important, Beloved - someone who has *experienced* the power of Christ.

Christianity is much more than joining a Church. Christianity is a *way of life*. The Church has no authority, no *exousia* to forgive your sins. Only Jesus has the authority to forgive your sins, because only Jesus shed His Blood on the Cross to save us.

Does the Church have the power to save? Does the Pastor have power to save? No, because *all power*, all *exousia* has been given to Jesus. We who believe in Him *enjoy the benefits of that power*, as the Bible says:

(John 1:11-13 KJV) "He came unto his own, and his own

received him not. {12} But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: {13} Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

We who have accepted Christ as Savior are, the Bible says, “Born Again”, recreated spiritually, made “new creatures” in Christ. The Christian is a , the Bible says, *a peculiar person*. We are oddities to the world, strangers and foreigners, oddly out of place because we are not like everyone else.

We are not like everyone else because we serve the only True God and are saved by the Only Begotten Son. That will make you odd, Beloved.

We are a forgiven people, a chosen people, a kept people, a saved people.

3. Jesus Alone Has The Power To Give Life

Every religion under the sun has a concept of Heaven, a concept of god, a concept of an afterlife. With all due respect to President Bush and politicians everywhere, there is only One God the Father and Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord. The Bible *expressly states* that truth:

(1 Corinthians 8:6 KJV) "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him."

All people *will have an afterlife*, but not all people will go to Heaven. A great many will go to eternal damnation because they believed that "all roads lead to Heaven" hogwash. Followers of Islam will *not* go to Heaven. Followers of anyone apart from Jesus Christ *will not* go to Heaven. The only way to be *complete* and *prepared* for Heaven is to be *in Christ*. The Bible says:

(Colossians 2:10 KJV) "And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:"

Did Jesus believe in Hell? Absolutely! Did Jesus believe He was the *only* way to avoid Hell? Absolutely! He said:

(John 5:25-29 KJV) "Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. {26} For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; {27} And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. {28} Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, {29} And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done

evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

Only Jesus can give eternal life in Heaven. Only followers and *believers* of Jesus Christ will have eternal life with the Only True God:

(John 17:1-3 KJV) "These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: {2} As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. {3} And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

If you have not accepted Jesus Christ as Savior, you are not going to Heaven. If you have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior then you have undergone a supernatural, life changing experience.

Conclusion

(Matthew 28:18-20 KJV) "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. {19} Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: {20} Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

Amen."

The Christian message of salvation is a message given to us by One who had the right to give it to us. Jesus is the *only One* who has power to forgive sins because He is the *only One* who died for our sins. Jesus is the *only One* who can give eternal life in Heaven, because He was given that right by the Only God, the Father.

The Bible *never mentions Mohammad or Islam* by name, nor does it mention the thousands of other cults and fringe groups that claim to carry a "Great Commission". The Bible does say this, though:

(1 John 2:22-23 NASB) "Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. {23} Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also."

What is the charge God levels against those who say there are many ways to Heaven? The Bible says, "You are a liar, you are an Antichrist for denying the Father and the Son".

The Son has been given power to forgive sins and to grant salvation. We are given the *power of that*

message in the Great Commission. We are carriers of that message that there is salvation in none but in Jesus. There's other power in Jesus, too. The power of an abundant life. The power of a changed life. The power of prayer. The power of the Word of God. The power to come against anything life has to offer and, in the name of Jesus, overcome it. The power to live victoriously.

But it all begins with forgiveness of sin and eternal life. You must be born again. You must accept Jesus Christ as your Savior, the Only Begotten Son of the Only God the Father.

Jesus warned His Church:

(Mark 13:34-37 KJV) "For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. {35} Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: {36} Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. {37} And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

Jesus gave us the authority to tell others about that Great Salvation found only in Him. Jesus gave the Church the authority to share the Gospel. We have

that authority, and no other.

With all due respect, you have no right to say anything outside of the Biblical Gospel. We do not worship the same God that the Muslims do, for they do not accept Jesus Christ as Savior. They are, Biblically, liars and antichrists, as is everyone else who rejects Christ as the only way to God the only Father (John 14:6). Sola Christos!

"Ezekiel had to cry, 'Ye bones, live.' What a foolish thing to say! But God justified His servant in it, and an exceedingly great army stood upon their feet in what was once a large charnel house. Joshua's men were bidden to blow their trumpets around Jericho - a most absurd thing to blow a trumpet to fetch city walls down - but they came down for all of that. ... It pleases God by the foolishness of preaching to accomplish His Divine purposes, not because of the power of preaching, nor the power of the preacher, nor any power in those preached to, but because "all power" is given unto Christ in "heaven and in earth", and He chooses to work by the teaching of the Word." C.H. Spurgeon

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