

Readings

Lev. 2:1 (observe the references to fine flour and its place in the ingredient lists)
Num. 7:13
1 Kgs. 4:22
Ezek. 16:10-13
Rev. 18:11-14
Jn. 5:22

Introduction

Last month we considered the state of many churches today, apparently alive but dead (Rev. 3:1). It was observed that the basic problem was the leaving of our first love. Then we considered the answer to the problem which was seeing and living the preeminence of the Lord.

This month we begin with the question:

Why Should Christ Have Preeminence?

God has declared it to be so: "That in all things He might have the preeminence" (Col. 1:18). The question then changes to: "Why did God give Him the preeminence?"

- a) Because that was the place He gave God in His earthly sojourn: "Thou art my God from my mother's belly" (Psa. 22:10); "I come to do Thy will" (Heb. 10:9)
- b) He glorified God by finishing the two works the Father gave Him to do:
 - i) "I have glorified Thee on the earth" (Jn. 17:4)
 - ii) At Calvary He finished the work of substitution (Jn. 19:30)

One of the lovely pictures God gives of the preeminence of the Lord is "fine flour".

- a) If one were to look at every ingredient list where it is mentioned, it is always first, except in one place. It was the first ingredient in:
 - i) The meal (meat) offering (Lev. 2:1-2)
 - ii) At the offering and dedication of the Altar (Num 7:12-13)
 - iii) The food for King Solomon, it was the first ingredient (1 Kgs. 4:22)
 - iv) The food God gave when Israel was enriched (Ezek. 16:10-13, 19)
- b) It was not the first ingredient in the listing of Rev. 18:13. Why?
 - i) The world has no time for God glorifying Christ.
 - ii) When on the cross the superscription over His head was in Hebrew, the religious language; Greek, the cultural language; and Latin, the political language.
 - iii) Today the religious world, political world, and cultural world have no time for God and Christ.

Because He is unequalled in every level. Consider His expressions:

- a) As the Light (Jn. 8:12; 9:5). He is indispensable.
- b) As the Resurrection and the life (Jn. 11:25). He is invincible.
- c) As the Way, the truth, and the life (Jn. 14:6). He is dependable.
- d) As the One who holds the keys of hell and of death (Rev. 1:18). He is unpreventable.

The Glory Of His Preeminence

The Lord is:

- a) Preeminent in the unparalleled proclamation:
 - i) "I will make Him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth" (Psa. 89:27)
 - ii) "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain" (Rev. 5:12)

- b) Preeminent in unrivalled positioning of adjudication:
 - i) Christ the Judge, and Executioner (Jn. 5:22, 27)
 1. To judge the churches and execute judgment on them (Rev. 2:1-3:22)
 2. To judge the unsaved and execute their judgment (Rev. 20:11-15)
 3. To judge believers and reward or execute judgment (Rom. 14:10-12)
 4. To Judge the nations and reward or execute judgment (Matt. 25:31-46)
- c) Preeminent in unmatched prerequisites for advancement, having the moral qualifications:
 - i) “Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.” (Psa. 24:3, 4)
- d) Unmatched in His prerequisites for administration:
 - i) “And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.” (Rev. 5:9, 10)
- e) Pre-eminent in His power in preservation:
 - i) Unlike Moses, etc., He will never die and leave us (Deut. 34:5-7; Heb. 13:5)
 - ii) God said concerning Israel: “Then said the LORD unto me (Jeremiah), Though Moses and Samuel stood before me, yet my mind could not be toward this people: cast them out of my sight, and let them go forth.” (Jer. 15:1). That will never be said to Christ concerning us.
 - iii) He will keep us to the end of the journey for: “Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.” (Heb. 7:25)

Conclusion

With such a glorious Person to worship, how could we fail but side with God in giving Him the preeminence.

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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