

Front Page - December 2017

The Supremacy of the Lord

Introduction

A number of years ago a question was asked an individual, "Can you name fifty titles of the Lord?" The responder answered the question with not only the fifty requested, but added quite a number more. When the heart and mind soars beyond the seeing of Christ as an historical figure and there is entered the spiritual stratosphere of the unequaled perfections of Himself, the enquirer finds themselves in an ocean of veritable truths.

Christ is not only unique but also preeminent.

- a) He is unique in that there is no one in Heaven or earth like the Lord.
 - i) After the victory over Egypt and its mightiest warriors at the Red Sea, the cry of triumph rang clear as the Israelites responded, "Who is like unto Thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like unto Thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders" (Ex. 15:11).
 - ii) Christ is unique in Heaven for He is the only one of the Divine Persons who added humanity to His deity.
 - iii) He is unique on earth, for apart from other truths, He is the only one ever to come into the world. Our personal and human history is earthly. He is the Lord from Heaven (1 Cor. 15:47) and taking on Him the form of a servant (Phil. 2:7), He partook of flesh and blood (Heb. 2:14) and became a real human being.
- b) He is preeminent as God has declared Him to be, "That is all things He might have the preeminence" (Col. 1:18).

The Preeminence Of The Lord

The preeminence of the Lord is unmeasurable for He is unequalled in His distinction. He has a preeminence which is unending in duration and has a dominion which is uncircumscribable. To assist us to grasp a little of the infiniteness of His gloriousness, He is described by numerous names and regal designations. There is conveyed to us:

- a) The perfections of His suitability for the revelation of God and the Father.
- b) The sufficiency of His moral resources for the requisites of the salvation needed for humanity.
- c) The Supreme sovereignty of His power in not only subduing but destroying every vestige of power the forces of evil can muster.

The perfections of His suitability for the revelation of God and the Father

- a) The holy apostle was caused to write, "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him" (Jn. 1:18).
- b) The Lord when speaking to Thomas said, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (Jn. 14:9).
 - i) The man Jesus was the perfect revelation of God because He was God incarnate, and as Hebrews records, He was, "The express image of His person" (Heb. 1:3). A closer consideration will show that the word "person" is better translated "substance", but even that does not go far enough. At times I am told that, "I am very like my father", but it is only in mannerisms and facial structure etc. The word substance is still inadequate for I am the same "substance" as my father. We both are creatures of flesh and blood. The truth goes beyond this, Christ is the fulness of all that God is (Col. 2:9), that being, not just having, but as His essential being He has the full attributes, characteristics, and prerogatives glorious that are God's.
 - ii) It is this that John writes of when he records the identicalness of Christ to God. (Jn. 5:21-26).

The sufficiency of His moral resources for the requisites of the salvation needed for humanity

- a) What was needed for salvation to be procured, what qualifications did the individual have to have? While there are many, for the qualifications to be the Saviour of all the world are different from those of being our Great High Priest or Advocate. Therefore, what are some of the qualifications needed to be such? Who had every qualification in perfection according to God's evaluations? Furthermore, the work of salvation must be eternal in duration, without need of a back-up plan and be done by someone being a

Front Page - December 2017

The Supremacy of the Lord

man but more than a man. The scriptures teach, “None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him” (Psa. 49:7), thus the complications for securing salvation are complex and varied. Like Job, we ponder, “Oh that I knew where I might find him!” (Job 23:3).

- ii) As the only One who had the sufficiency to secure salvation the Lord had to be the originator of the life salvation imparts and it has to be “resurrection life”, for only are we then fully justified (Rom. 4:24-25).
- iii) Not only must he have the qualifications to be the originator of resurrection life, He must never die again for that would put an end to our spiritual life. He must not only be raised but be alive to live for evermore (Rev. 1:18). As the only one who is alive for evermore, He maintains our standing before God by His advocacy and High Priestly ministry. I thank God for the advocacy of Christ, for while we are told to confess our sins, the problem is, “What about the sins we commit unwittingly?” That is where the advocacy operates and our standing before God is unchangeable, consequently John writes, “As He is, so are we in this world” (1 Jn. 4:17). It is not “As he was, so are we” that is hated and despised, but “as He is,” (that is before God) so are we, even while in this world.
- iv) Every need we have is procured by Him as shown in the five major offerings (Lev. 1-6).
 1. The Burnt Offering for our acceptance and approachability
 2. The Meal Offering for our presentation to God in that acceptability and approachability,
 3. The Peace Offering we can have in being assured our offering of the Lord is accepted.
 4. The Sin and Trespass Offerings for sins we are ignorant of and the ones we do commit, the seriousness of which depends on one’s place in the saints or congregation.

The Supreme sovereignty of His power in not only subduing but destroying every vestige of power the forces of evil can muster.

- a) After the recent US election (whither I like the man and his policies or not is irrelevant for this observation), there has been seen more venom and hatred than for any other President. The hatred is intense and is like an ocean whose waves never stop. When our Lord was here that is how life was for Him, only intensified. It was not only from humanity but also directly from the powers of darkness.
 - i) When he was asleep in the back of the boat, there was an attempt made on His life by satanic use of the storm.
 - ii) When they could not abide His words they brought Him to the brow of the Hill to cast him over it.
 - iii) Eventually they had him killed at the cross.

Today we see such utter rejection of God and Christ as man seeks to break their bands asunder.

- b) Satan holds the power of death, that is his citadel which, by the use of sin, death came and humanity dies. Death has a claim on every individual and despite bodily freezing etc., death is the end for every human being. The life within them fights as they struggle for another breath but eventually the tentacles of death spread throughout the body and the individual dies. No one ever entered death, they were taken by it. For Christ to provide a full and perfect salvation there had to be the resurrection from the death, and to do that not only must Christ rise from the dead, but in doing so He must break the power of Satan and infuse that resurrection life into the believer. Just as Satan could not stop the Lord from entering his domain, he could not prevent Christ from exiting it. On that first day of the week many years ago in a garden outside Jerusalem, one of the greatest victories the world’s history and eternity will ever know was executed. Christ rose from the dead and Satan was defeated.
- c) In a day yet to come Satan will work through a man called the “Beast” to set up a pseudo millennium. There will be, by the Beast, a counterfeit resurrection. He will sit in the temple as God and in time he will gather the armies of the world to oppose the purposes of God in making Christ King over all the earth.
 - i) Into the Lake of Fire the first two humans, The Beast and the False Prophet (Rev. 19:20), will go into that place of torment, death will not intervene for them. They will be cast alive into that place of eternal torment and Christ will do that.

Front Page - December 2017

The Supremacy of the Lord

- ii) The armies of earth, under the direction of Satan, he will destroy.
 - iii) In time, and finally, Satan himself will be cast into the Lake of fire, never to return. Earth's mightiest opposer to God and Christ will be banished to the blackness of darkness for all eternity
- d) Between the banishment of the Beast and false prophet into the Lake of fire and that of Satan, there are several great time periods.
- i) The millennial reign of the Lord when Satan is cast into the bottomless pit for 1000 years
 - ii) The duration when He is released from it and goes out to deceive the nations
 - iii) Then Christ destroys them.
- e) Finally, the Lord will give up the rule of all to God so that God will be all in all, that is, He is the source, the maintainer, the goal, the motivation, the power of every activity, and perfect peace will dwell throughout all eternity.

Conclusion

How great is the Lord and worthy to be praised from hearts filled with the wonder of all that we are indebted to Christ for. I close with the words of the disciples, "What manner of man is this?"

... Rowan Jennings