

Christ Has All Authority

John Isaac Edwards

A much needed principle to be learned and respected is that Christ has all authority. Christ claimed, “All power is given to me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18).

Christ Is God’s Spokesman. The Hebrew writer penned, “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds” (Hebrews 1:1-2).

Christ Is Head Over All Things. Paul informed the Ephesians that God “raised him [Christ] from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all” (Ephesians 1:20-23). It’s not that Christ is head over some things, but God gave Him to be head over *all* things to the church.

Christ Is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Christ is not a king among kings or lord among lords, but is, as Paul wrote Timothy concerning Christ, “...the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords” (1 Timothy 6:15).

Christ Is Our Great High Priest. The Holy Spirit revealed, “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession” (Hebrews 4:14).

Christ Is the Chief Shepherd. Peter, writing shepherds of the flock of God, declared, “And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away” (1 Peter 5:4). Do you know who the chief Shepherd is? “...our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep...” (Hebrews 13:20).

Christ Is Captain. The term “captain” suggests one who is the chief leader. Hebrews 2:10 records concerning Christ, “For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.”

Christ Will Be Our Judge. Christ said, “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48).

If Christ has all authority, how much does that leave for you and me? As Paul wrote, “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Colossians 3:17).

Strictness in God's Law

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God says what He means and means what He says! “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you” (Deuteronomy 4:2). Consider some examples of God’s strictness:

Adam and Eve. God commanded, “Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 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” (Genesis 2:16-17). When God said not to eat, did He mean that? He certainly did! In Genesis 3, Adam and Eve eat of the fruit and are driven from the garden of Eden.

Nadab and Abihu. Leviticus 10:1-2 records, “And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord.” Think God isn’t strict? Talk to Nadab and Abihu!

Moses. When the wilderness-wandering Israelites complained of thirst, the Lord told Moses, “...speak ye unto the rock...” (Numbers 20:8). “Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice...” (Numbers 20:11). God said, “Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them” (Numbers 20:12). Moses learned that God is strict!

Uzzah. The Lord said, “...they shall not touch any holy thing, lest they die” (Numbers 4:15). You mean to tell me the Lord would strike one dead for touching something? Let’s see. When moving the ark of the covenant, “...Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. And the anger of the Lord was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God” (2 Samuel 6:6-7). When God says not to touch a thing, we better keep our hands off of it!

Let us simply do what God commands, without addition, subtraction or substitution!

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