

GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide
SB 02.13.2022

SPIRITUAL AUTHORITY – Colossians 2:11-23

Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles, or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel stated "This weekend, most of us will sit down to watch the Super Bowl. When you watch the game, you'll see two groups of individuals running around on the field. One group is the players. Many of them are huge. Some have biceps that are bigger than my thighs. The other group of people on the field are the referees. Compared to the players, the referees are puny. They aren't nearly as strong or athletic or quick. Yet, on the field, they are the ones who hold all the power. What they say goes! If they say it's out, it's out. If they say it's in, it's in. If they say it's a touchdown, it's a touchdown... Why? Because they have been given all the authority. The spiritual world operates under a similar set of laws. Whoever has the authority gets to call the shots. Jesus said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations...' {Matthew 28:18-19} Let's get into our study...

1. What spoke to you from Pastor Daniels sermon this week?
2. Have you ever been given a position that carries authority? What was it and what authority did you have?
3. What kind of authority does a police officer carry? Where does his authority come from?

Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ COLOSSIANS 2:10-15

1. Why is verse 10 the believer's response when threatened with false doctrine or philosophy?
2. According to this passage, what role does identity play in combatting false doctrine?

In response to the threats of false doctrine, Paul urged the Colossians to remember their identity. "You have been filled" or "you have been made complete" denotes a completed act (salvation) with ongoing results (sanctification). If indeed "in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority" (v. 10), then a believer does not need to cling to false beliefs for security. If one has been sealed with the truth, then all other lies prove worthless. Understanding your identity in Christ and the fullness of who He is safeguards a believer from turning to other sources for completion.

3. Why is remembering the great act of God at the cross necessary for us to walk with Him?
4. Look at verses 11-12. What two acts does Paul mention? What is the significance of each of these?

The reference to circumcision indicates the Jewish nature of this false philosophy. Circumcision was established and mandated by God for entrance into the covenant community of His people. But the circumcision of the Messiah was spiritual and associated with "circumcision of the heart" (Deut. 10:16; 30:6). Many Jews still believed they needed to be circumcised in order to be saved, which conflicts with the nature of the gospel as a free gift (Romans 3:27-28; 11:6). Paul also referenced baptism, which relates to Christ's death and burial (Romans 6:3-8).

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Believer's baptism symbolizes union with Christ in death and complete separation from the former way of life.

5. What did Jesus do with the principalities and powers – 2:15? (To what principalities and powers does this refer? Compare Ephesians 6:12.)
6. Why does knowing that Jesus has all authority important for combatting false doctrines and philosophy and demonic influence?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ COLOSSIANS 2:16-19

1. What application does Paul make in 2:16 to the removal of the law as described in 2:14? What is meant by the reference to food and drink? What conclusion should we reach?
2. What is meant by a festival, a new moon, or Sabbaths? (What application should be made to those who claim that we should still keep the seventh-day Sabbath today?)
3. In what sense were these practices a shadow of things to come in contrast to the substance that is of Christ – 2:17? What danger does Paul warn about in 2:18 that may cheat Christians of their reward?
4. What is false humility? Explain how one can be puffed up even while professing to be humble. (What can we learn about the possibility of a Christian losing his reward?)
5. What does following these human doctrines do to our relationship to Jesus – 2:19? What does the Head do for the body that shows it is important to hold Him fast?

HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ COLOSSIANS 2:20-23

1. What should be our relationship to the basic principles of the world? – 2:20?
2. What applications should this have to following man-made rules and regulations? What did some of these rules and regulations say – 2:21?
3. How does Paul describe the nature of these rules in 2:22? What was the basic and primary problem with them?

Applying God's Word

What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.

The Apostle Paul acknowledges that asceticism, or self-denial, practiced by unbelievers, or even believers are a subtle effort to suppress evil desires of the fallen nature of man and basically, defines all religion. Religion is predicated on self-effort in the rehabilitation of the fallen nature of man. While religion "indeed" has a show of wisdom, it is mere "will worship," or self-effort using the will of man in a "forced" worship of God by adhering to certain standards of a religion. This only produces "a form of godliness" while denying the power of the gospel as well as the necessity of a new birth. While religion often appears as humility, even in neglecting the body, it will only satisfy one's flesh and has nothing to do with the "truth" of the gospel and will never be accepted by God.

1. Legalism is the belief that we can earn God's acceptance or love by doing certain things or keeping certain rules. How is this toxic to the Christian life? What is the antidote to legalism?
2. In what areas of your life are you most tempted to try to "earn" your sanctification through works?
3. When is a time we should limit our freedom as Christians? When should we embrace our freedoms? Consult Acts 16 or 1 Corinthians 9:20.

PRAYER – Lord, thank you for the truth of Your Word. Thank you for salvation and the free nature of such a glorious gift. Thank You that salvation not only means forgiveness of sins, but also a permanent marking of the Holy Spirit and identification as Your sons and daughters. May we remain steadfast in the truth when we face the opposition of false beliefs or practices.

*“Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize.”
(Col. 2:18b).*

Authority in Christ

(Here are some verses on delegated authority. Review them with your group and encourage one another to walk in Christ’s authority as we serve Him.

Because of what Christ has done for us by nailing our sins to His cross, we have been forgiven and given delegated authority to serve Him. Authority is delegated power. In order to do battle in the spirit realm, you must understand your delegated authority to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. You must understand our authority in Christ.

Definitions of Authority:

1. The power or right to give orders and enforce obedience. 2. A person or organization having official power. 3. Freedom of doubt; belief in yourself and your abilities. 5. A power delegated from one person to another.

Related Words:

Assurance, Authorization, Command, Confidence, Control, Dominance, Expert, Mastery, Might, Potency, Power

Other:

Luke 10:19 I have given you authority (power – exousia) to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power (dunamis) of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

Exousia: ability; privilege, force, capacity, competency, freedom, mastery, delegated influence:–authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.

Dunamis: force, miraculous power, a miracle power, strength, mighty work.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power (dunamis) when the Holy Spirit comes on you.

How can we receive “dunamis” power today? (See Luke 3:16 – ASK!)

Delegated Power

Authority for our purposes here has been defined as **delegated power** (dunamis and exousia).

Definitions of Delegate:

1. A person to represent others. 2. Authorize someone to act as a representative. 3. Transfer power to someone. 4. Assign authority to. 5. Appoint as a substitute.

Related Words:

Appoint, Assign, Deputize, Mandate, Representative.

Other:

WHO'S POWER IS IT?

Eph 6:10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power (kratos).

Kratos: vigor, mighty power, strength.

The Book of Ephesians deals with the power of Messiah and our delegated authority more than any other book. In Ephesians 1:18-23 Paul clearly shows the power of God, which has been placed under the authority and rule of Messiah, is given as part of the inheritance to “us who believe.” It is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead and set Him above all things – It is the source of our authority.

Eph 1:18 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints

19 and His incomparably great power (dunamis) for us who believe. That power (kratos) is like the working of His mighty strength,

20 which He exerted in Messiah when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms,

21 far above all rule and authority, power (exousia) and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come

22 And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church,

23 which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way.

God has placed all things under the feet of Jesus and Jesus has given us His authority. Where does that place all things for us? (Under the feet of Jesus who is our Head)

Authority has been delegated to us through Jesus. If we are part of His Body then we have His delegated Authority.

Mat 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority (exousia) in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Our Job With His Authority

Jesus gave us a job to do. When He gives us something to do He must also give us the Authority to carry it out. He told us to “Go.” He also said we would not be alone but that He would be with us always.

Consider what would happen on a military base if a corporal walks up to his captain and tells him to be the officer in charge of latrine duty for the day. The captain would probably laugh at the corporal who would then find himself on latrine duty. Now, consider the same situation except this time the corporal tells his captain that

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the base general sent him with the verbal message and that he also has a written order signed by the general. The corporal now carries the general's authority and it would be as if the general were there in person with the corporal. The captain may not like it but he obeys immediately.

We see an example of lack of authority in Acts 19:13-16 in which some men were trying to use the authority of Jesus for which they were not delegated. This would be like a civilian trying to give latrine duty to the captain in the general's name. As a Civilian he would have no authority in the chain of command at all.

Acts 19:13 Some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.

14 Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.

15 And the evil spirit answered and said to them, "I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you?"

16 And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled from the house naked and wounded.

On the other hand, we do see proper use of delegated authority by Peter and John when they healed a paralytic in Acts 3:6.

Acts 3:6 But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!"

7 And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened.

8 With a leap he stood upright and began to walk.

When we speak with our Heavenly Authority it is as if Jesus is standing right there with us, and, He has given us our written orders in His written Word, the Bible. Those in covenant with Jesus are part of His army and in the chain of command to properly use His authority.

John 15: 4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

6 "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.

8 "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.