

All Authority

Scripture

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, [even] to the end of the age. Amen.’” (Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV)

Commentary

It couldn't be much clearer. Jesus said He had all authority or power in heaven and on earth. He said that as He commissioned His disciples, them and us, to preach the Gospel and make disciples. We know He includes us because He says He will be with us even to the end of the age.

When is the last time you talked about salvation with someone? I know opportunities don't always present themselves, but what about this authority Jesus mentioned? Why did He tell us that He had all authority in heaven and on earth? Was He just being a braggart (I speak to make a point)? That is not even possible. Therefore, He must have been transferring that authority in some measure to His disciples. An ambassador represents his country, and as a representative he has some authority to speak on behalf of his country. Believers are Christ's ambassadors. As it is written, “Now all things [are] of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore [you] on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.” (2 Corinthians 5:18-20 NKJV)

What would you change about this world if you had the authority to do so? Well God has delegated authority to preach the Gospel to all men. If you want to reform the world, you must reform men first, but this is not the point just an illustration.

It is not our mission to reform the world. Our mission as believers is to share the Gospel teaching men to obey the commands of God. That is not to say that more Christians in the world wouldn't or couldn't have a positive effect on our culture. Revival could truly happen. When it does, it always has a purifying effect on society.

However, a selfish motive will never sustain real evangelistic fervor. Evangelism is sustained by love. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16 NKJV) You have the authority to preach the Gospel, do you have the love?

Prayer

Father, open our eyes to the multitudes who are dying in their sin. Teach us to love as you did. You have given us the authority to preach the truth now give us the heart. Let us go boldly to the throne of grace to gain strength for the battle. Forgive our indifference of the past and embolden us for the future, amen.