

NEWSLETTER

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RESURRECTION HOPE CHURCH OF GOD

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The Past, Present, and Future Lordship of Jesus

Revelation 12:7-11

In Matthew 28:18, before ascending to His seat of authority in heaven, Jesus tells His disciples that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him. We know from a contextual view of the Scriptures, that authority given is authority from a higher source. This source is God.

In Matthew 28:19-20, because Jesus is Lord, we are to reach out, as ambassadors of Christ, to make disciples of all people, to baptize them and to teach them to follow Jesus. His promise is to always be with us.

Jesus is Lord, *Kurios* in Greek. Peter boldly proclaims in Acts 2:36, "*that God has made Him to be both Lord and Christ.*" Jesus is ruling from God's throne. The same throne that we are promised in Revelation 3:20-21.

Because Jesus is Lord, we are also called to live in victory. It is not that we won't experience trouble in this life, but that we ultimately will overcome the Accuser of the brethren, and this fallen world system. We share in Jesus' victory in the same way as Jesus.

To qualify as the Messiah, the Christ, Jesus had to be fully human, coming from the lineage of David. As the Messiah, He was anointed by God to fulfill His unique mission as Savior. We too, as children of God through faith in Jesus, must be anointed by God, so that we may walk in victory.

A plain reading of the text in Revelation 12:7-9, regarding war in heaven between Michael, the archangel and his fellow angels, with the dragon,

doesn't mention God or Jesus engaging in this war. It does appear however that Satan's rejection from heaven occurred immediately after the Messiah's exaltation to heaven. In Apocalyptic (revealing/unveiling) writings like Daniel and Revelation, battles in heaven are precursors to conflicts on earth.

Revelation 12:10, begins a hymn of praise to God. God's Kingdom has already invaded and broken into this world. The enemy of all that is good and right, Satan, has been overcome.

This overcoming occurs first, by Jesus and by His blood, the blood of the Lamb. What does this mean in our lives? The reign of God and His Son can be realized in our lives. We conquer by the blood of the Lamb. The sacrificial, atoning blood of Jesus bears away and eradicates our sin. Revelation 7:9-14.

Secondly, we conquer by the word of our testimony. Revelation 12:11. The proclamation of the Gospel message of God's soon coming Kingdom and its application in our lives presently. We are now more than conquerors through Him who loves us!

Lastly, we conquer by not loving our lives in this world, but by being willing to lay down our lives for the cause of Christ and for God's will, just as Jesus did. God's love is so clearly seen in the laid down life of His Son.

The birth, life, death, resurrection, and exaltation of Jesus has dealt a critical loss to Satan and to our fallenness. We are to identify with Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension, even as we remain faithful witnesses to the Gospel of the Kingdom message.

God's will for us is to live a life of intimacy with Him, as we are anointed and filled by His Spirit.

Pastor Michael Medlock

Because of God's Mercies

Ephesians 2:4-5 "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ."

We see in Ephesians 2 that it was only by God's mercy that we did not receive the penalty for our sin, which is death, but we instead received life and forgiveness of sin. Psalm 103:10 tells us that God "*does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities*" and that He loves us so much that He "*has removed our transgressions from us*"; even "*as far as the east is from the west, so far.*" This is God's gift to all who would receive it.

It is only by God's mercy that we can be saved. Titus 3:5 states, "*He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit.*" Our merciful Heavenly Father accepts us just as we are but loves us too much to leave us there.

Jesus paid the penalty for our sins by dying on the cross. God accepted Jesus's sacrifice for us, "*even when we were dead*" in our sins (Ephesians 2:1). Peter 1:3 says, God through "*His great mercy, has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead*".

Romans 8:31-39 reminds us that nothing can separate us from God's love. We have all had a rough day or two where we seemed to get overwhelmed, when our emotions got the best of us, and we reacted unkindly, instead of responding correctly. We may have even questioned how God could love us when we failed to control our flesh, instead of allowing His Spirit to control our words and actions.

If we falter, we need to remember that we have an avenue of repentance. God will help us as we submit our hearts to Him and allow His Spirit to guide us. We have a merciful Heavenly Father who loves us.

Nothing in all creation will ever be able keep us from His love that is revealed in Jesus. God loves us so very much that He gave His only Son to pay the penalty for

our sins. Romans 5:8 says, "*But God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*"

God's love was not based on our performance. This love also is the love that Jesus evidenced through His willing sacrifice for us. A love that is for all who would receive it.

We are to strive to love God and His Son, with all our heart, all our mind, and all our soul, our whole being. We are to love ourselves and others the way that God loves us, unconditionally (Mark 12:30-31). As we walk in this love, we can also receive God's peace knowing that we serve a loving and merciful God.

We don't need to worry, be anxious or walk in fear. We can walk in the peace of God. We have the assurance through the Scriptures that God is with us and loves us, continually bestowing His mercy and grace upon us. God wants us to "*stop striving*" (Psalm 46:10) and remember who He is. God is our Creator, our Redeemer, our Helper, our Refuge, our Comforter, our Strength, our Provider, our Sustainer, our Joy, our Hope, the Great Physician, the LORD of all. God is our all in all, trust Him.

Psalm 46:1-3 reminds us that no matter what is happening in our lives and in this world, that God is our refuge and our strength, "*a very present help in trouble*". The only way for us to walk in the peace of God is to have a personal relationship with God, with His Son, and remembering that God is in control.

We serve a loving and merciful God. We can walk in peace knowing that through His enabling power, we can obey His Word, we can follow Jesus' example, and be ambassadors to a lost and dying world. Let us trust in God's Word, remembering that nothing can separate us from His love. Let's walk in God's peace, knowing He is always with us. Let us be a light, shining in the darkness, so others can find their way into God's wonderful light.

Blessings,

Charity