



January 10th, 2010
Evening Service

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Encouragement of Victory

Abstract:

For centuries the mainstream view of the Church has been one of a victorious savior rightfully and dutifully executing the offices of prophet, priest, and king as foretold in scripture. In the past 150 years, we have seen the pendulum swing in the complete opposite direction. The populous opinion now has the Church being held hostage as the world continues to deteriorate and our only hope is that we are 'rescued' before the whole world is taken over by a mythical anti-Christ.

We need to ask ourselves then how could an anti-Christ rule the world when the Bible tells us very clearly that Christ came as King. How then could this happen under the reign of King Jesus? Simply answered, it can't and it won't. We have seen the decline in the church caused by erroneous theology. Princeton University the once a stalwart champion of sound doctrine is now home for the likes of Peter Singer. How much farther will we let the church decline? Why are the pulpits not preaching about Christ's glorious victory over sin, death, and destruction? What shape would our country be in right now if the Church had not gone astray?

As you listen to tonight's sermon, ask yourself the following questions.

- Does the Bible say Christ IS king? Or will be King someday?
- Does the Bible say there can be more than one King?
- What did Paul mean when he said *"If God is for us, who is against us?"*
- Does the Bible tell us Grace HAS defeated sin? Or will defeat sin someday?
- Does the Bible tell us Christ HAS defeated Satan on the cross? Or that Christ's victory will come at some point in time afterwards?

The 'Left Behind' theology sounds very exciting, makes for good movies, and is wildly popular right now. But if you carefully think about all the Bible says, you will see the the only thing 'Left Behind' is the Truth. It's nothing more than a ruse to put the Church on the sideline as a spectator. If you believe this teaching than you must believe that our Lord and Savior is either unwilling, or unable to take has office as King. This is nothing short of heresy.

Christ made the ultimate sacrifice and His work is perfect! What could be more encouraging than knowing Christ is our King right now, today. There is nothing more encouraging than that!

Scripture References:

Isaiah 9:1-21 But there will be no *more* gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make *it* glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. (2) The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them. (3) You shall multiply the nation, You shall increase their gladness; They will be glad in Your presence As with the gladness of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil. (4) For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian. (5) For every boot of the booted warrior in the *battle* tumult, And cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire. (6) For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. (7) There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. (8) The Lord sends a message against Jacob, And it falls on Israel. (9) And all the people know *it*, *That is*, Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria, Asserting in pride and in arrogance of heart: (10) "The bricks have fallen down, But we will rebuild with smooth stones; The sycamores have been cut down, But we will replace *them* with cedars." (11) Therefore the LORD raises against them adversaries from Rezin And spurs their enemies on, (12) The Arameans on the east and the Philistines on the west; And they devour Israel with gaping jaws. In *spite of* all this, His anger does not turn away And His hand is still stretched out. (13) Yet the people do not turn back to Him who struck them, Nor do they seek the LORD of hosts. (14) So the LORD cuts off head and tail from Israel, *Both* palm branch and bulrush in a single day. (15) The head is the elder and honorable man, And the prophet who teaches falsehood is the tail. (16) For those who guide this people are leading *them* astray; And those who are guided by them are brought to confusion. (17) Therefore the Lord does not take pleasure in their young men, Nor does He have pity on their orphans or their widows; For every one of them is godless and an evildoer, And every mouth is speaking foolishness. In *spite of* all this, His anger does not turn away And His hand is still stretched out. (18) For wickedness burns like a fire; It consumes briars and thorns; It even sets the thickets of the forest aflame And they roll upward in a column of smoke. (19) By the fury of the LORD of hosts the land is burned up, And the people are like fuel for the fire; No man spares his brother. (20) They slice off *what is* on the right hand but *still* are hungry, And they eat *what is* on the left hand but they are not satisfied; Each of them eats the flesh of his own arm. (21) Manasseh *devours* Ephraim, and Ephraim Manasseh, *And* together they are against Judah. In *spite of* all this, His anger does not turn away And His hand is still stretched out.

Luke 1:67-79 And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: (68) "Blessed *be* the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people, (69) And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of David His servant-- (70) As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old-- (71) Salvation FROM OUR ENEMIES, And FROM THE HAND OF ALL WHO HATE US; (72) To show mercy toward our fathers, And to remember His holy covenant, (73) The oath which He swore to Abraham our father, (74) To grant us that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, (75) In holiness and righteousness before Him all our days. (76) "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; For you will go on BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS; (77) To give to His people *the* knowledge of salvation By the forgiveness of their sins, (78) Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us, (79) TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

Isaiah 1:18-20 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool. (19) "If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land; (20) "But if you refuse and rebel, You will be devoured by the sword." Truly, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Romans 8:31-39 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? (32) He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things? (33) Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies; (34) who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. (35) Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? (36) Just as it is written, "FOR YOUR SAKE WE ARE BEING PUT TO DEATH ALL DAY LONG; WE WERE CONSIDERED AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED." (37) But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. (38) For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, (39) nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We are glad you have chosen to listen to this sermon and pray that it gives you strength, the desire for obedience, and a desire to have God's abundant Grace mortify sin in your life. If you have any questions or comments please email chuck_ezell@yahoo.com.