

Ch. 5 — The Lord's Work Being to Save Man into the Authority of the Kingdom  
Scripture reading: Matt. 6:9-10; 7:21-23; 28:18-20; Luke 17:20-21; Acts 2:33, 36; 5:31-32

### **Lord's Incarnation Bringing God's Authority Among Men**

Because the Lord Jesus was ruled by God and was under God's authority, He could reign for God. He cast out demons wherever He went. This was His reigning. He said, "If I, by the Spirit of God, cast out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you" (Matt. 12:28). Casting out demons is not a matter of power; casting out demons is a matter of authority. When Jesus reigned, demons were cast out. Even His healing of sicknesses was a matter of reigning. We should remember the centurion, who wanted his servant to be healed. He said, "Lord,...only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes" (8:8-9). He seemed to be saying, "Lord, only speak a word, and the sickness will depart from my servant; only command and my servant will be healed." The Lord's healing was a matter of reigning. His calming the winds and the sea was also a matter of reigning. We can read many cases of the Lord's reigning in the Gospels. Even His teaching in a crowd was a matter of reigning. When the people wanted to seize Him and throw Him down the cliff, He reigned (Luke 4:29-30). The men wanted to seize Him, but they could not. He went away poised, passing through their midst. They could seize Him only when He permitted. Without His permission, they could not seize Him. He was under God's authority, and He reigned for God.

This principle applies to us today. Whether we are at home or in a meeting, the extent to which we are under God's authority is the extent to which we can reign for God. A person must be under God's authority in order to reign with God's authority. These are matters of the kingdom.

### **Preaching the Gospel Bringing Man Under God's Authority**

Matthew 28:19 is very important. The Lord said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (v. 18). In other words, "I will now exercise this authority and establish the kingdom of God among men on earth. However, the men on earth are rebellious and unsubdued." Therefore, the Lord went on to say, "Go therefore and disciple all the nations" (v. 19). To disciple the nations is to bring the nations under the Lord's authority, to make the nations accept His authority, and to make the nations accept His rule. There is a distinction between a disciple and a believer. A believer is a person who is saved. When a person believes, he is saved and becomes a believer. A disciple, however, is different. The designation disciple means one who has been trained, who is ruled. Therefore, the Lord's word means that we should not only preach the gospel and save people but also bring rebellious people to be subject to Him. The Lord uses the gospel of the kingdom to bring men to be subject to His authority, to be disciplined, and to be ruled by Him.

### **The Holy Spirit Bringing the Savior, the Throne, and the Kingdom into us**

When we received the Lord Jesus as our Savior, the Holy Spirit entered into us. Furthermore, not only did the crucified Christ enter into us, but the enthroned Christ also entered into us. At the bread-breaking meeting, the saints often say, "Lord, we praise You. You have not only forgiven our sins but also put Your life in us. Thank You for this great grace!" However, I rarely hear someone say, "Lord, You not only saved me, but You put a throne, a kingdom, in me." The Savior, who is the Lord of lords and King of kings together with His throne, has come into us. How marvelous this is!

In our Christian life there have been times when we touched the throne, a definite ruling. The kingship and the kingdom are in us. This is glorious. Although this may be difficult for us to fathom, it is a fact. We have a throne and a kingdom in us, and there is One who is ruling and reigning in us. This is the condition of every believer. The throne, the kingship, and the heavenly rule restrict us and reign in us.

### **The Focus of a Christian Being to be Ruled by Heaven, Not on Doing Good**

The Lord's salvation is not focused on our doing good. Rather, His salvation is to save us until He reigns in us. Likewise, being a Christian is not a matter of doing good but of being ruled by heaven. The saints often ask me why others can do things that are good and beneficial, but they cannot. I often say, "It is not a question of whether something is good. The question is whether the ruling within us allows it. The matter of watching movies, for example, is in this principle. Young people often question me concerning going to the movie theater. If they are not saved, they do not have such a question. Although they are saved, they may still want to watch movies. When the ruling within them forbids them, they ask, "What harm is there in going to the movies? Movies are not bad. Why can we not watch them?" I reply, "The Bible does not say that people cannot watch movies. Preachers rarely say that you cannot watch movies after believing in Jesus. I have been preaching for three decades, and I have never said such a thing. I have never told people that they cannot watch movies after they are saved. Why did you ask me this question? Did a preacher say that you cannot watch movies?" Often they reply, "You are right. But I sense a problem within." Then I say, "Why do you sense a problem within?" Thus, it is not a matter of whether we can watch movies but whether the ruling within allows us or consents to our watching movies. This is how to be a Christian. Being a Christian is not a matter of good or bad but of an inward reigning. If the inward ruling does not allow something, we should not do it even if it is very good. This is not a matter of good or bad but a matter of authority, of ruling.

Some people prophesy, cast out demons, and do works of power in the Lord's name, but they are not under God's ruling or His restriction, nor are they in accordance with His will (Matt. 7:21-23). From the Lord's perspective, such people are lawless. Therefore, the Lord does not approve of such prophesying, casting out of demons, or works of power being done in His name. This applies not only to prophesying, casting out demons, and works of power but also to other holy and good things. Being a Christian is not a matter of doing good or evil or of being able to do something. Being a Christian is a matter of obeying the inward ruling. Christians should take the Lord's authority as the standard, not good and evil. The Lord did not save us from evil to good. He saved us from being rebellious to being subject to authority. Many people in the world do good while rebelling against God, and many Christians do good without being under God's rule. God came to save us from rebellion so that He might establish a throne and a kingdom in us. Hence, we must learn to be subject to God's authority and to be ruled by Him not only in relation to evil things but also in relation to good things. We need to be ruled by God not only in our love for the world but also in our spiritual pursuit and zealous service. It is not a matter of being good or evil. It is a matter of being in rebellion or of being subject to authority. Who is reigning in us? Is it the devil, man, or God? Questions of right and wrong, of doing good or evil, are questions for moralists. The question for a Christian is: Do you reign, or does the Lord reign? Let me repeat, being a Christian is a matter of being subject to authority, because God wants to establish His kingdom and His throne in us. He wants to be King, and He wants to reign. May we receive mercy to know what the Lord wants, what He has saved us from, and what is the purpose of His salvation. May we see what the Lord wants to gain.