

“Until His Enemies Are Subdued”
(1 Corinthians 15:25)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation: Last week, we saw three very important things that should help shape our direction in life:

1. First, that our whole reason for living should be wrapped up in the kingdom of God.

a. It should because this is God’s whole purpose.

(i) It’s the reason He made the world,

(ii) The reason He made you – and everyone else –

(iii) It’s also the reason He redeemed you.

(iv) He did all these things that He might glorify His Son,

(v) And so glorify His grace and mercy.

b. Next time you think about what you should do with your life, begin here:

(i) Everything you do, you are to do for God’s glory,

(ii) The small things, as well as the big.

(iii) To promote the work of redemption.

2. Second, you should draw your self-worth from the work of redemption:

a. Everyone struggles with self-esteem – looking for a reason to love themselves.

b. Here is the ultimate reason for you – if you are a believer:

c. It’s that God loves you,

(i) And sent His Son for you,

(ii) Not because you are so good,

(iii) But because He is so merciful.

(iv) This is what gives you value.

3. Finally, that you should constantly be seeking the Lord for revival:

a. Because this is one of the most powerful ways

b. The Father brings in His Son’s reward.

c. That’s what your life is to be all about.

d. And so you should pray.

B. Preview.

1. This morning, let’s consider another reward that Jesus receives – another that is also boosted by revival – the conquering of all His enemies.

a. The Bible says they will all be subdued before He comes again – which means it will happen in this life.

(i) All Christians agree that this will happen one day –

(a) Many believe it will be at the final judgment.

- (b) If they didn't submit to Jesus as their Lord and Savior while they were alive and received the salvation of their souls,
 - (c) They certainly will at the final judgment when they are condemned and sentenced to everlasting damnation.
- (ii) Our text, however, says it will be in this life.
 - (a) Jesus is reigning now, and must continue to reign
 - (b) Until all His enemies are put under His feet.
 - (c) As Paul writes in Philippians, "Every knee will bow" to Him (Phil. 2:10).
 - (d) This must happen before the final judgment.
- b. So here's another reason revival is so important:
 - (i) It not only helps us gather in Jesus' people – to safety,
 - (ii) It also speeds the surrender of His enemies.
- 2. Let's consider two things:
 - a. First, that as a reward for the work of redemption, Jesus was also given rule over the world with the promise that all His enemies would be subjected to Him.
 - b. And second, that revival also moves this work forward.

II. Sermon.

- A. First, let's consider that the Father has exalted Jesus over the entire world with the promise that all His enemies will be subjected to Him as His reward for the work of redemption.
 - 1. First, there's no question that Jesus is now the King of heaven and earth.
 - a. The author to the Hebrews tells us that His ascension to the right hand of God happened after He died for our sins and rose again: "But He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD" (10:12).
 - b. This was His exaltation – when He was crowned as King over all Creation.
 - (i) Paul writes, the Father "seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet" (Eph. 1:20-22).
 - (ii) Didn't Jesus Himself say when He gave His disciples the Great Commission, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (Matt. 28:18).
 - (iii) He is now the King of all kings, and the Lord of all lords (Rev. 19:16),
 - (a) Which is exactly what the Lord said would happen hundreds of years before through Daniel: He writes,
 - (b) "I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and *men of*

every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed” (Dan. 7:13-14).

2. But why was He exalted?
 - a. It wasn't just that He might receive that honor,
 - b. It was that all of His enemies – and God's – might be subdued.
 - c. The author to the Hebrews writes that after He ascended and was crowned as King over all Creation, He began “waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET” (Heb. 10:12-13).
3. It's on the basis of this authority that all kings and nations are called to submit to Him.
 - a. In Psalm 2, we read that after the Father seats His Son on the throne, He calls all authority on earth to submit to Him:
 - b. “Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; take warning, O judges of the earth. Worship the LORD with reverence and rejoice with trembling. Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish *in* the way, for His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!” (vv. 10-12).
4. Notice that this isn't speaking about the Day of Judgment or the world to come.
 - a. It has to do with what the present world – what He calls the nations to do now.
 - (i) He is seated *now* in the heavenlies.
 - (ii) He is *now* ruling over the nations.
 - (iii) His enemies are being subdued under His feet *now* –
 - (iv) That work *began* when He sat down at the right hand of God.
 - (v) And it will be completed before He returns,
 - (vi) With the exception of death,
 - (vii) Which will be subdued when He returns and raises the dead.
 - b. Wasn't this what He had in view when He commissioned the disciples and sent them out with the Gospel?
 - (i) After He tells them that all authority had been given to Him,
 - (ii) He told them, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:19-20).
 - (iii) They were to bring about the subjection of the nations through the Gospel.
 - (a) Jesus' command wasn't simply to convert a few through the Gospel,
 - (b) But to make the nations His disciples.
 - c. Didn't Jesus also command us to pray for this?

- (i) He says, “Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven’” (Matt. 6:9-10).
- (ii) Our passage tells us that this is a prayer He will answer:
 - (a) Paul writes, “For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet” (v. 25).
 - (b) He also writes, “Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil. 2:8-11).
 - (c) Jesus tells us that His kingdom will become so powerful that the kings of the earth will seek shelter under its branches, “‘The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; and this is smaller than all *other* seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES.’”
 - (d) He also said it would permeate and influence the whole world, “He spoke another parable to them, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened’” (Matt. 13:31-33).
 - (e) Jesus isn’t saying that the whole world will be saved.
 - (1) There are many tares among the wheat that will be separated and thrown into the fire when He returns (vv. 24-30).
 - (2) But everyone will submit prior to that time.
 - (A) Tares resemble wheat, except for the fact that they don’t bear fruit.
 - (B) There may come a time when everyone looks like a Christian, but unbelievers will be distinguished by the fact they don’t bear truly good fruit.
 - (3) The psalmist writes regarding Jesus’ reign, “Because of the greatness of Your power Your enemies will give feigned obedience to You. All the earth will worship You, and will sing praises to You; they will sing praises to Your name” (Ps. 66:3-4).
- d. Jesus is reigning now; all the nations will be disciplined; His kingdom will come; His will will be done; every knee shall bow.
 - (i) They will either do so willingly, out of love, trusting in His Son,
 - (ii) Or not so willingly, out of fear.
 - (iii) But everyone will.
 - (a) If you haven’t submitted to Him, do so now and you will be saved.
 - (b) If you continue to fight against Him, you will lose –

- (c) You will eventually bow the knee – but then it will be too late to save your soul.
 - e. Let's not miss the encouragement this also gives as we go out to evangelize:
 - (i) Jesus will gather in His sheep,
 - (ii) He will subdue His enemies,
 - (iii) Through His Gospel –
 - (iv) This is His reward for the work of redemption.
- B. Let's consider, second, that revival moves this work forward as well.
1. Revival boosts the work of gathering in His sheep, as we've already seen.
 - a. But it also boosts the subjection of the unconverted.
 - b. In other words, revival promotes His work both as Savior and as Lord.
 2. There are two things take place in revival: awakening and conversion.
 - a. More people are converted than normally – more of Jesus' people are saved.
 - b. But even more are awakened.
 - (i) Awakening is something the Lord does short of conversion.
 - (ii) It's where He subdues the heart of the unbeliever through fear.
 - (iii) We saw a great example in Pilgrim's Progress in Interpreter's house: the man who was awakened/terrified by his dream –
 - (a) It was Judgment Day, and he wasn't ready.
 - (b) Hell was opening its mouth to swallow him up.
 - (c) The dream left him trembling with fear,
 - (d) *It broke the illusion of the world – even if only for a few moments –*
 - (e) *Bringing him face to face with reality.*
 - (iv) This kind of fear subdues sin.
 - (a) It turns you from your sins – even if for the wrong reasons.
 - (b) It brings about a kind of obedience – even if it's pretended.
 - (c) Even this kind of obedience can bring physical blessings –
 - (d) When people turn from their sins and begin to do what's right –
 - (e) Which is one reason you should be praying for it.
 3. So here's another reason you should pray for revival:
 - a. You should seek it so that you – and all the Lord's church – will have the power to go out and gather His people together through evangelism.
 - b. But you should also pray for it that His kingdom might gain ground:
 - (i) That the unconverted would fear Him and turn from their sins,
 - (ii) That the Lord might take back the territory that was lost through Adam,
 - (iii) That the nations might experience the Lord's blessings:
 - (iv) As the psalmist writes, "In his days may the righteous flourish, and abundance of peace till the moon is no more. May he also rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. . . . Let all kings bow down before him, all nations serve him. For he will deliver the needy when he cries for help, the afflicted also, and him who has no helper. He

will have compassion on the poor and needy, and the lives of the needy he will save. He will rescue their life from oppression and violence, and their blood will be precious in his sight . . . May there be abundance of grain in the earth on top of the mountains; its fruit will wave like *the cedars of Lebanon*; and may those from the city flourish like vegetation of the earth. May his name endure forever; may his name increase as long as the sun *shines*; and let *men* bless themselves by him; let all nations call him blessed” (72:7-8, 11-14, 16-17).

- c. Jesus is King, and one day every knee will bow to Him.
 - (i) But it won’t come without the means – the Word and Spirit –
 - (ii) And so we must evangelize and pray.
 - (a) The Lord will convert,
 - (b) He will awaken.
 - (c) He will subdue His enemies.
 - (d) He will take back the world.
 - (e) But He will do it through you and me,
 - (f) As we evangelize,
 - (g) And seek the Lord to advance His kingdom,
 - (h) May the Lord help us each to do what He calls us to do. Amen.

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