

## **YOU HAVE ALL THE AUTHORITY YOU NEED!**

**Matt. 28:18 - Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 - Therefore go and make disciples..."**

In the Garden of Eden, God placed Adam and Eve in the garden and told them to rule over it – to literally, “take a handful” and make it theirs. In Matthew we have the record of Easter morning as Jesus appeared to the disciples. He had completed His mission of redemption and was going to ascend to the Father but in His last command, he points mankind back to their original role and underscores their primary responsibility – To use the authority they were originally given.

The authority given in the beginning didn’t last long, for Adam and Eve promptly gave it away in following the instructions of the serpent. But the crucifixion sealed the regaining of that original scope of authority over the earth plus the re-establishing of the necessary link of that authority with heaven. All authority had been given back to Christ and rather than retain it to Himself, He did as is the focus of redemption – He gave it back to mankind.

- We wrestle with the presumed authority of our political systems.
- We wrestle with the apparent authority of world leaders.
- We fear the power of an errant economy.

We, like Adam and Eve in the garden, are aware of our insecurity, our fear and the uncertainty of one solitary life in the scope of a huge and uncertain world.

We are looking for answers to the problems of our world and of our communities.

But Jesus did not define any exceptions to His authority. All authority had been given, both earthly and divine. He was issuing an end definition of what redemption had purchased – ALL. There were no exceptions in this statement of the scope of His grace.

It is too easy for us to place His grace in some ethereal and otherworldly context as though it applies to some other time or some other dimension after we die. Jesus made no other context other than here, now, on earth and in heaven.

The magnitude of the scope of grace includes all. The problem is in rising to both acknowledge it and walk in it. And that is the challenge – to bring into the now, into the circumstances of life as we live it, where we live it, <sup>18</sup>Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Therefore go and make disciples the total authority of grace.

May this Easter season be filled with the growing realization of your authority in Him and of the abundance of His grace toward we who believe.

Pastor Dave