

1228.

The Sanctions of Authority.
Phil ii. 9-11

Hymns (S.C.) 69 "Crown Him with many Crowns"
65 "The Head that once was crowned with thorns"
30 "O the deep, deep love of Jesus"
73 "In the Name of Jesus"

Scripture Isa xxvi. 11-15.
Dan. ii. 20-23.

69 65 30 73
Isa xxvi. 11-15.
Dan. ii. 20-23.

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69 65 30 73

Phil. II. 9-11.

"Wherefore also God highly Exalted Him, and gave unto Him the name which is above every name; that in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things on earth and things under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Introduction.

This Statement is found at the very heart of ^{the} Christian Literature. It is one of the most familiar. It is nevertheless of such a nature, as to make contempt for it impossible. It cannot be read thoughtfully, in private or in public, without producing the sense of awe and reverence; and this by reason of the stupendous declarations preceding it, as well as by its own tremendous proclamation.

Without any question, it is the central word of the Biblical Revelation on the subject of Authority. All the phases of that subject are recognized, and indeed the truth concerning them is revealed.

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Phases of the Subject of Authority.

i. The realm over which Authority is Exercised;

- Things in heaven
- Things on earth
- Things under the earth.

ii. The Extent of Submission to Authority;

- Every knee should bow.
- The Physical Symbol.
- Every tongue should confess.
- The Spiritual Expressed.

iii. The ultimate purpose in the Exercise of Authority;

The Glory of God, the Father.

iv. The Appointed Executive of Authority;

Jesus Christ - the Lord.

v. The Authoritative Act of this Appointment;

God highly exalted Him.

vi. The Inherent Rightness of this Exaltation;

Gave Him the Name, which is above every name.

vii. The Sanctions of the Authority;

Wherefore also; - The other things God did
The preceding paragraph

The Assumptions of the Proclamation.

God. Reigning over His own Creation.
Intelligent Beings.

Involving the Creation beneath them in their own attitude towards the God who reigns.
If the Biblical doctrine as to the sacredness of humanity ~~is~~ well-founded, so also are these assumptions.

Our present business is twofold;

- A. A consideration of the last of these phases; that of the Sanctions of Authority.
- B. An application of the Truth to our present and future conditions.

A. The Sanctions of Authority.

Notes.

The whole question of Authority is of Supreme interest and importance; ^{it is the subject} of constant enquiry and investigation; and now, it is acute, because nations are engaged in life and death struggles, all acting under Compulsion of some kind.

Taking the titular heads of the Nations for illustration -

{ Kaiser. ^{A-H.} Emperor. ^{J.} Emperor.
 Tsar. ^{R.} King. ^{B.} King. ^{E.} King. ^{U.S.} King. ^{M.} King. ^{F.} President.
 "I am a man under Authority; and
 I have Soldiers under me"

We turn then to the Biblical Revelation. Accepting those assumptions already referred to;

The Sovereignty of God.

The Relation of Man Thereto. { Under
 Obed

There are two lines of Consideration.

† The Sanctions of Essential Authority

‡ The Sanctions of Delegated Authority.

"Blessed be the name of God for ever,
 For Wisdom & might are His;
 And He changeth the times and the seasons;
 He removeth things, and setteth up things;
 He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge
 to them that know understanding;
 He revealeth the deep and secret things;
 He knoweth what is in the darkness, and the
 light dwelleth with Him"

1 The Sanctions of the Essential Authority of God.
 i These are necessarily created by what God
 is in Himself.

a. The Intelligent and Capable Source & Origin,
 has authority over all that has resulted
 from His Wisdom & Might.

See Dan 7. 20-21.

b. The Authority He exercises will depend
 upon what He is.

ii What He is, is revealed in the Exercise of His
 Authority; and so we discover the Sanctions
 of His Authority.

a. The partial revelations of the O. T.

1. Observe the Emphasis in Daniel.

It is not so much on what He does

Rather on the fact that it is He.

2. The Secret hinted at in following Exclamation

"O Thou God of my Fathers"
 ① Wisdom. ② Might. ③ Love. ④ Holiness.

b. The Secret unveiled in N. T.

1 Our Contact.

α. One. In the form of God.

β. His Counting. Equality - no prize →

γ. His Action. { Emphasized Himself.
 } Becoming a man of servant.
 } Obedient - death - of the cross.

2 A word from John. (I. iii. 16^a)

"Hereby know we love; because He laid
 down His life for us."

3. That love, is the Sanction of the
 Divine Authority.

{ God Chooses to reign as Saviour over
 a ransomed race, rather than as
 Sovereign over a broken & subjugated
 race.

4. The Sanctions of Delegated Authority.

i. There is a delegation of Authority.

- a. A method of Expression + application.
- b. Rendered necessary

1. By man's imperfect knowledge of God
2. By man's imperfect knowledge of Man.

ii. Delegation is not destruction.

a. The Sovereignty of God abides.

1. "There is no Authority Except from God"

Which does not mean that an evil Despot has authority; but that he has not.

2. "Those that are (authorities) by God have been appointed"

b. All who are set over men; must abide under God.

1. Emperors. Kings. Presidents.

(The Great Ones exercising Authority over those who rule.)

2. Rulers and Judges.

(The Rulers who lend it over the people.)

c. The Sanctions.

1. Love of the ruled.
2. Self-eulphing
3. Sacrificial Service.

Rom xiii.

Mk. x. 42.

B. Application of our Meditation.

i To the Present.

i The hour of Disciplined Submission.

a. Germany's Millions.

b. Russia's Millions.

c. France's Millions.

~ And teeming others

a Our own Sons.

Obedient unto Death!

ii Under what impulse are they marching, fighting, suffering, dying?

a. This is the question upon which the issue rests!

b. They have received their impulse from those set over them.

What is it?

Selfish Pride of Race & Power?

Sacrificial devotion to Principle?

c. Our own Sailors & Soldiers.

1. All Volunteers.

2. Submitted willingly to a Cause.

3. Unhesitatingly affirm;

a The Cause is True

b There is much self-emptying.

iii The Decision.

a A Condemnation of the Sanctions which precipitated the Crisis.

b. A Vindication of the Sanctions which Compelled the response in defence of right and truth.

¶ To the Future.

Note. { Remember that future obligations
are present duties.

i The First Work of the Church.

a. The Revelation of God.

{ Proclamation.

{ Manifestation.

b. The Revelation as it is in Jesus.

{ The Christ of the New Testament.

{ Natural and Supernatural.

{ Human and Divine

c. The Call to Men & Nations to return to Him.

{ Evangel & Ethic.

{ We must cease the divorce
between these.

ii. The Consequent Responsibility of the Church.

a. Definite National Accountability.

The Church, as such, dealing with
policies.

b. A Determined investigation of all authority.

As to whether it be of God.

c. A Solemn demand that the people shall be informed.

In order that Conscience may
become in fullest sense a factor.

Conclusion.

St. Asquith

"This is not merely a material, it is also a
Spiritual Conflict"

Two forces

Centrifugal To fly the Centre
Centripetal To seek the Centre.

The first the Scattering force.
The second the gathering.

Christ is the Centre.

Hear Him!

{ "He that is not with me is against me.
He that gathereth not with me, Scattereth."

Other lords have had Dominion over us.

Today

We bow the knee
We Confess Him Lord!