

In The Place of God

TEXT: Gen. 50:15-21

INTRODUCTION:

- A. JOSEPH SOLD BY HIS BROTHERS!
 - 1. God used this to save Jacob's children and weld them into a nation.
 - 2. Food and welcome in Egypt because Joseph was in power.
 - 3. Jacob dies and the brothers fear for their lives.
- B. JOSEPH'S ATTITUDE: "Fear not, for am I in the place of God?" (vs. 19).
- C. JOSEPH FACE A DANGEROUS AND SINFUL TENDANCY IN ALL MEN ... TO PUT ONESELF INTO THE PLACE OF GOD.
- D. WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING?

I. THE VENGEANCE SEEKER.

- A. JOSEPH KNEW VENGEANCE WAS NOT HIS RIGHT.
- B. IN MATTERS OF PERSONAL INJURY, GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF THINGS.
- C. OUR DUTY? (Matt. 5:38-39; Rom. 12:19-31).
- D. ATTITUDE AND ACTION (Matt. 5:43-44; 18:15-17, 21-22).
- E. FOR MATTERS BEYOND THE PERSONAL (Rom. 13:1-7; 2 Thess. 3:6).

II. THE TITLE WEARER.

- A. MEN PUT THEMSELVES IN GOD'S PLACE (2 Thess. 2:1-4).
- B. TITLES USED TO DISTINGUISH AND ELEVATE.
 - 1. Reverend, Doctor, Pastor, Father, Brother.
 - 2. Only God to be so honored (Psa. 111:9).
 - 3. All are equal in Christ (Matt. 23:5-10; Acts 10:25-26).
 - 4. Elder, brother, pastor → Job description, not ecclesiastical title.

III. THE CREED WRITER.

Definition of CREED: 1: a brief authoritative formula of religious belief 2: a set of fundamental beliefs; also : a guiding principle Considered authoritative by a denomination or church.

- A. GOD'S STANDARD (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- B. NOT TO CHANGE IT (Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:6; Rev. 22:18-19; Gal. 1:6-10).
- C. GOD GAVE JESUS TO BE HEAD OF THE CHURCH (Col. 1:18).
- D. MAN LACKS THE WISDOM TO DIRECT HIMSELF (Jer. 10:23; Prov. 16:25).

IV. CHURCH FOUNDERS.

- A. GOD IS THE ARCHITECT OF THE CHURCH (Eph. 3:10-11).
- B. GOD FOUNDED THE CHURCH THROUGH JESUS (Matt. 16:18; John 5:30; 14:10).
- C. WHO FOUNDED THE MORMON CHURCH, THE BAPTIST, THE METHODIST?
- D. Prov. 127:1; Matt. 15:13-14.

V. COMMAND CLASSIFIERS.

- A. BIG vs. LITTLE ↔ MORTAL vs. VENIAL.
- B. ALL THAT GOD SAYS IS IMPORTANT (Psa. 119:172).
- C. IT IS LAW – ALL OF IT (James 2:8-12).
- D. WHAT IS SIN? (1 John 3:4).
- E. SIN'S CONSEQUENCE? (Rom. 6:23).
- F. WHICH COMMANDS ARE MORE IMPORTANT?
 - 1. Faith or baptism?
 - 2. Worship or daily life?
 - 3. Baptism or attendance?

CONCLUSION: OTHER AREAS MIGHT BE DISCUSSED IN ANOTHER LESSON.