



Fairgrounds Road
C H U R C H O F C H R I S T

MESSENGER

"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – September 30, 2018

To Know Christ...

Jesus knew who was in complete control throughout all His life; even when justice was not part of the moral fiber of those surrounding Jesus, the Son of God. Pilate, the governor of Judea, in the presence of Jesus must have been wondering in his fear as to why Jesus was not willing to answer his question toward Him about where Jesus was from. So in John 19:10, Pilate said to Jesus, **"You do not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?"** Jesus then replies in the next verse, **"You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above;"** And then to prove Jesus' point, the next verse states that even though Pilate, claiming to have authority, made efforts to release Jesus, it did not succeed, because the Father who is from above reigns, not man! Pilate's authority amounted to nothing compared to God's all reaching authority.

Jesus, knowing that God reigns from above with all authority, set His life to be pleasing to His Father. The wicked who surrounded Jesus, knew He had not violated any governmental law, yet they still schemed. In Luke 23, Pilate proclaims on three separate statements that there is no guilt in Jesus: v4 **"I find no guilt in this man."** v14 **"...having examined Him before you, I have found no guilt in this man regarding the charges which you make against Him."** v22 **"What evil has this man done? I have found in Him no guilt demanding death;"** Pilate knew there was no guilt in Jesus, Pilate also knew he had no power or authority to change when or how Jesus would be killed. God was in complete and total control! And God would raise Jesus up from the dead, the human body that had been marred (Isaiah 52:14; "disfigured") more than any man, because God stands in control, not man!

Do we recognize God as in complete control? In the midst of our own struggles for doing what honors God, do we know God stands in all authority and control? If we do, we will strive to have no guilt in our lives. Guilt comes in as a result of not living the life and character exemplified in Jesus. I do not mean imitating the miraculous, but the choices on how to live a life of holiness and lovingkindness. When we walk in ways that oppose Jesus, guilt will thrive; and therefore we will spiritually and morally decay to be captured in death's grips again. We will also

be found as enemies of Christ. Look at the enemies in the story of Jesus' life, that's us, if we do not give over full submission of our lives to Jesus. Often the price paid for living in Jesus can cost us everything, even the ones closest to us. God is standing in control no matter if times are comforting or trials are raging. But it's worth it all. **BUT IT'S WORTH IT ALL!**

Jesus gave everything over to the Lord, who has complete control. By being lifted up in death by means of the cross, Jesus now draws all men unto Him. (John 12:32-33) If we hold back, we will find a life of guilt, dread, and misery. If we give ourselves completely over, Jesus will lift us up with Him, where death has no authority over us, strengthened by God's grace and power. Giving ourselves completely to God's will does not mean our lives are filled with ease and comfort in this world, but giving ourselves completely over to God's will ensures us of eternal life with God, forever in His presence to see the power and authority of the Almighty God who reigns! Does your life show your understanding of who reigns? Look at John 5:30.

- Carey Terry