

For Our Information

Brenda Keisler is feeling a little better after the work on her vertebrae. She has another session near the middle of the month.

Joyce Venable's blood pressure is better after a change in medicine.

John Ross Simpson is running fever and not feeling well again.

Time Change Sunday, March 10th.

Remember one another as we pray
to the Father each day

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

does not come from the word of God, but from the minds of deceived men who will lead many souls to eternal destruction!

The fact is, Jesus does have the ability to subject all things to Himself, but we also find in God's word that some men are not subject to God's laws and, in fact, "cannot" (**Rom. 8:7**). Those whose minds are set on fleshly things cannot be subject to God's laws [i.e., Christ] because, as long as that is their mind set, they will think and act in opposition to it. You see, while all men are in subjection to Christ, not all will admit or acknowledge that subjection and they will live accordingly. But how so? Didn't God's word say Jesus had the ability to subject them to Himself? Yes, He has the ability, but He does not exercise that ability. Man was created with free will to make the choice to submit or not. Those who are a part of the Lord's church willingly and freely subject themselves to His will (cf. **Eph. 5:24**), not against their own will.

The call to salvation is sent to every man (cf. **Titus 2:11-12**), but we know not all will respond positively. Jesus made the invitation and He, with God, want none to perish (**2Pet. 3:9**), but He has not forcefully subjected any man to His will; it is each one's choice to do so or not. God's grace provided the means of salvation for mankind, but each man must accept it by his own choice if he desires salvation.

The important thing to remember here is to make a distinction between His ability and what He does.

Seeking His Righteousness

Tanner St Bulletin Volume 8 Week 9

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He Is Able, But Does He?

Every once in awhile, you run across a verse or a phrase within God's word — even some you may have read many times before — that makes you just have to stop and consider the depths of what you just read. I ran across one of those the other day when studying and it certainly made me stop and think, and I would like to share with you some of the thoughts that came to mind.

"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself." **Philippians 3:20-21**

The phrase that jumped out at me this time I read it was *"the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself."* Think about that for a minute! What kind of power must He have if He is able to subject all things to Himself? But this then leads me to ask another question: If He is able to subject all things to Himself, does He? Some deep theological questions result from this simple statement, and it has led to a few

Steven Harper



All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

John 1:3



1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

TannerSt.com

erroneous doctrines being formulated in an effort to justify other erroneous doctrines. I believe the following study will help us to understand the answer to that question. Let's allow the Bible to answer the question, though, shall we?

First, the Exception. When considering the dominion of Jesus Christ, we must also consider the fact of what Scripture also teaches us: there is an exception to the "all things." Paul, in writing to the Corinthians about the resurrection, told of the end when Christ would deliver the kingdom to God the Father and subject Himself to Him who gave Him that dominion, and in that reminded them, *"For 'God has put all things in subjection under His feet.' But when it says, 'all things are put in subjection,' it is plain that He is excepted who put all things in subjection under Him"* (1Cor. 15:27). In other words, God the Father — who gave to Jesus Christ the rule over this kingdom of believers (cf. Eph. 1:16-23) — is excepted/excluded from this. We can understand this when we understand that Christ rules with God the Father (cf. Rev. 3:21), and will always rule with Him. If His kingdom is truly an "everlasting" one (cf. 2Pet. 1:11) and if it is true that we will "reign with Him" (2Tim. 2:12), then He must, of necessity, continue to reign after this world has ended.

Nature. Jesus demonstrated His power over nature itself when He walked this earth about 2000 years ago. When He was in the boat on Galilee with the disciples when the storm arose, they appealed to Him to save them from the apparent destruction from the storm, and *"He awoke and rebuked the wind and the raging waves, and they ceased, and there was a calm."* The disciples clearly saw the possibilities of the scope of His power, asking, *"Who then is this, that He commands even winds and water, and they obey Him?"* (Luke 8:22-25). 'Who,' indeed! We should not be completely surprised to read of His dominion over nature, though, for this is the One who created these things (John 1:3; Col. 1:16); surely, if He had the power to create it, He had the power to control it and He did!

But even as we say this, someone might think that, since He has this ability and power, He still does control nature and specifically and particularly controls every act of nature. Not so. That was not even true when Jesus walked the earth — and wasn't true at any time before or since — so why would we believe that He does so now? When we open our Bibles, we do not read about Jesus daily dictating the weather, and to say He does so today would be without any Scriptural

Store In My Heart

1Samuel 8:7

The Lord said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them."

Samuel, Israel's last judge, is only the character that opens these books. While Samuel walked in the ways of God, his sons did not and Israel sought to be ruled by a king like the nations around them.

The books of Samuel tell the story of the first two kings God gave to Israel. Saul, who looked like a king but was not faithful to God, and David, who is described as "a man after God's own heart." This is the story of the rise of Israel as a great nation. It also reveals the cause of its fall from God's care.

evidence to support it. Yes, God used forces of nature in the Old Testament for specific purposes, but that was the limit of how He used the power and ability He had. In creation, He set in motion the laws of nature that control what happens, and those laws are what make hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, and any other natural occurrence. Yes, He has the ability to direct and control nature as a regular part of His work, but nowhere in the Bible do we find that He does.

Angels, Authorities, and Powers. When Peter spoke of how we are saved by baptism, he wrote that it is *"through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to Him"* (1Pet. 3:21-22). Paul described His exaltation as that which was *"far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come"* (Eph. 1:21). When Jesus ascended into heaven, He sat on His throne and ruled over all — all levels of authority, all levels of power and all natural and supernatural forces, and every level and position of authority in heaven and on earth [with the previously-noted exception]. Truly, God has given Him *"the name [authority] that is above every name"* (Phil. 2:9)!

But, again, some may take the ability of Jesus Christ that comes with His power and authority and confuse the ability with what He actually does. Some, thinking that this power is limitless in its application, believe and teach that He then directs every action in heaven and on earth. According to this doctrine, you cannot so much as lift a finger without His direction and purpose; everything you do in life is already planned out and He spends His time in heaven not interceding for us (cf. Heb. 7:25; 9:24), but controlling everything that happens anywhere in the entire creation. If a bug hits your windshield, it is because He directed it; if the wind blows over a tree, it is because He directed it; if a man stocks up on weapons and ammunition and goes on a rampage killing scores of innocent people, it is because He directed it; and if a dictator comes to power and has millions of people murdered, it is because He directed it. We could on, but can you see the results of this concept? Those who promote this heinous concept of how God and Jesus Christ operate tell us it is a "most comforting doctrine," but I find no comfort in reading such a description of God; in fact, I find it quite repulsive! It