

A Word from Our Preaching Pastor:

Sunday, September 27, 2009

And Jesus came and said to them,
"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

Matthew 28:18

The question of "*authority*" is not one a lot of people really think about these days. Most just assume that each person is an authority unto himself or herself. I get to choose what I like and don't like. I'm the one who decides what is right and what is wrong *for me*. I know what I want in life. I know what I want for my family. And I know what I like in a church. In the end that's all that matters, that I get to pick and choose what I think is best.

And so, for many Americans, even self-proclaimed Christians, the words of William Henley's poem, *Invictus* sound true.

*It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.*

But what if there were, indeed, a Sovereign God to face? What if there were, indeed, a narrow gate off the broad path that *alone* leads to life, and the punishments listed in that ancient scroll were more than just idle threats? What if this Eternal Judge had made His will clear, not only for the way we worship and conduct ourselves in church, but for the conduct and passions of our lives as well. Would that make a difference? And wouldn't that God Who created us and Who holds our lives in the palm of His unchanging hands have every right to rule and command us? In other words, wouldn't all authority belong to Him? And if it all belonged to Him, wouldn't that mean it does *not* belong to us?

So we *are* accountable to Him, dear friend. We are answerable to Him for these lives we live, for the words we speak, and the choices we make. And because we have "sinned an fallen short" of keeping His commands, we have no hope but His Grace. But oh, what an abundant Grace there is in Jesus!

Clinging to His promise of Grace in Christ!

Pastor Scott