

HEALING STREAM MINISTRIES presents...

THE UNDILUTED, FULL STRENGTH, THREE ANGELS' MESSAGES

with enough power to...

- cleanse from all sin
- set us free from all bondage
- break all the power of the enemy over us
- restore us to total spiritual health
- develop immunity to all last-day deceptions

#27 – The Authority of the Beast

Have you ever heard of persons posing as bona fide workers for the electric company in order to gain access to someone's home? What about persons advertising themselves as physicians, but whose only education were as medical lab techs? Then there was the impostor who faked a police badge pretending to help, but who only did it only for personal advantage. The key issue in each case – authority!

According to Revelation 13:6, the beast is a blasphemer. Blasphemy is the attempt to act in God's name without having God's authority. We can look at the historical beast-power and say, 'Here is the power that seeks to dispense forgiveness in God's name but without God's authority.' But what is the core of blasphemy? Remember how Jesus was accused of blasphemy because He forgave someone his sins. At its root blasphemy is trying to do God's work for Him. But because Jesus is the Son of God, he has the authority to forgive sins. Therefore, the accusation of blasphemy against Him was groundless.

On the other hand, if we try to save ourselves are we not then trying to do God's work for Him? God has not given us that authority. God only gave that authority to Jesus. So if we try to save ourselves by depending on our own works and alibis of self-justification, are we not possibly committing great blasphemies similar to those committed by the historical beast power?

What does it mean to worship the beast? It may be nothing more than to trust in and to glorify our own works as the basis for salvation. To worship the beast may be nothing more than to neglect the Lamb as our Sin-bearer. We can safely place all our sins on the Lamb because God has given the Lamb the authority to bear them and to justly forgive us. That is why the witnesses in heaven's open courtroom give this testimony, "*Worthy is the Lamb who was slain*" (Revelation 5:12). To worship the beast all you have to do is to not trust in the authority of the Lamb as sufficient to save.

To worship the beast is...

- like trusting an unlicensed physician to treat you for an incurable disease.
- like engaging an attorney to defend you who has either been disbarred, or who has flunked the State Bar examination. Someone has said, 'Only a fool will serve as his own attorney.'
- to trust in someone [or something] to save you who does not have that authority.

Who gives the beast his authority? Revelation 13:2 says that the dragon gave authority to the beast. How amazingly deceptive that the one who wants to destroy you should pose as having God's authority to save you.

A key issue in the end-time is this: Whose credentials are you going to trust? Those who trust in their own credentials [works] to save them should look closely into heaven's open courtroom. There you will discover that Satan has been disbarred and banished from his practice of law without a license in the universe. His practice of law consisted in accusing us, and to use our transgressions of the law as just grounds to accuse God. Through Calvary's cross, his illegal practice of law has conclusively been removed, for the cross upholds both the justice and the love of God. *"Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God and the power [authority – Gk. exousia] of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down"* (Revelation 12:11). Though the heavenly court has shown his authority to be as phony as a three-dollar bill, this enemy still tries to portray legalism [mere law-keeping] as a perfectly legal way to earn salvation. God's truth is that legalism is an illegal way of obtaining salvation because it bypasses the efficacy of the spilt blood of the Lamb as sufficient basis for restoring us to fellowship with God. Legalism claims it is legal by labeling the redemptive and justifying work of Christ as 'legal fiction.' Legalism obtains an assurance of salvation that is not based on the authority of Christ's finished work, but rather causes us to look to our own accomplishments as the ground of our salvation. Legalism leads to an external keeping of the law and the upholding of Christian standards for the purpose of exalting self. God's amazing grace rather writes His law in our hearts and thus exalts Christ by dealing a deathblow to the root sin of pride and self-sufficiency.

Worship the Lamb! From now on let your worship be a legal testimony that agrees with the testimonies of the witnesses from both earth and heaven assembled in heaven's courtroom *"Worthy is the Lamb."* And let that testimony be the offensive legal weapon by which you overcame Satan and his pretended authority. *"And they overcame him (the dragon) by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their **testimony**"* (Revelation 12:11).

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