

Title: Christ the First Fruits (Part 2)

Text: I Cor. 15:20-28

We are in 1 Corinthians chapter 15 beginning with Vs 20. In our last time together, we saw the reason why the resurrection of Jesus was so very very important. I gave you 7 reasons. But in Vs 20 there is a real ^{shift} ~~change~~. In Vs 20 through Vs 28 we have the results. Because He is the FIRST FRUITS. The results of that great resurrection....

Vs 20...."BUT NOW"....What a great introduction. After telling us "if we have only hoped in Christ in this life, we are of all men most to be pited. "BUT NOW".....Praise the Lord for the difference.

(Read I Cor. 15:20-28)

Prayer

(1)In Vs 20 to 23, I want you to see the certainty of our resurrection.

The certainty of our resurrection is brought before us simply because Jesus is the First Fruits. Because he rose from the dead you can count on it. You, also, are going to be resurrected.

Now, last week I gave you an important truth. And I want to remind you of that truth once again. This generation, and this culture is controlled by the ~~presence~~ present. There is no question about it. It is the "HERE AND NOW". It is getting your act together and doing your thing now. And we are all subject to it. And it effects christianity. It effects the way we play. It effects the way we live. We want everything to happen now. "LORD! MEET MY NEEDS, NOW! "LORD! BLESS ME!"

And man has become the center of our theology and the center of God's program. AND IT IS NOT THE TEACHING OF THE BIBLE. It is so radically different that it takes a major transformation in your thinking to make a difference in the way you live. It

It is not man who is the center. It is God who is the center. And there is all the difference in ~~the world~~ the world. And it is not the here and now, people, but it is the future that makes a difference in the "here and now." THAT IS THE TEACHING OF THE BIBLE: THE FACT OF THE RESURRECTION. THE FACT OF OUR BEING WITH THE LORD.

The fact of there being a future out there beyond death, is what controls us now, is what makes a difference in the way we live. The reason why we do not lay treasures on earth, but lay treasures in heaven. The reason why we are committed to Jesus Christ and His purposes in our life, now,..the reason why our life style is different...is because of what we will be one day.

I John emphasizes that so beautiful when it says that someday we shall be like him because we shall see him as He is. And every person who has this hope in him, purifies himself even as He is pure.

That is so very important to get into your head....What we are talking about will greatly effect your life, now, but, this passage....verses 20 to 28 brings a brain new perspective. Not brain new from the stand point of time. For it has been here all along. But, brain new to this culture. Because it tells us that there is an ultimate objective beyond man. Even ~~by/on/by~~ beyond man's salvation. It is not God's final objective...it is not God's final desire to save you. But it is only a means jto an end.

And a lot of us think that because we have ~~four~~ ticket to heaven, we have a measure of security..that, therefore, that is what it is all about. ~~NO~~ FRIEND....You are not the ultimate objective of God. You are only a stepping stone to the ultimate objective. ~~And~~ Man is not the center of theology. GOD IS...And we are going to see that, hopefully, in a new way in this text.

~~My~~ Now, the certainty of our resurrection is based upon several facts. (1) One of which deals with the Biblical defination of "FIRST FRUITS." According to I Corinthians 15, Christ is the "FIRST FRUITS" of those who are asleep. Again, I remind you that the word "asleep" only applies to believers. It never applies to unbelievers.

And it says, also, in Vs 23 .."each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming."

The phrases "first fruits" ~~is~~ is the key.

Turn to Leviticus chapter 23. This 23 chapter of Leviticus deals with ~~the~~ the seven feast of Jehovah....There are 7 of them...

Three of which every Jewish male, 20 years old and above, had to attend. These three include: Pentecost...Passover...and Tabernacles.

Now, all of these feast are ~~related to~~ related to God's program and plan. The whole plan of God was outlined to the Jew in these 7 feast as they spelled out the Jewish year.

Now, we know that these feast, also, represent Christ. Some part of His ministry...Example: PASSOVER...No question about that one. I Corinthians 5:7 calls Jesus, "Christ, our passover, was sacrificed for us."

And here in I Cor. 15 He is called "FIRST FRUITS." And that was one of the feast that followed PASSOVER.

Let's see this in Leviticus 23 verse 9...(Read Vs 9-11)

Now, what is the day after the Sabbath?....."SUNDAY".....

What day did the Lord arise from the dead?....."sunday".....

Isn't it interesting that even in the details of prophetic fulfillment they are right there.

Vs 12....."Now on the day when you wave the sheaf, you shall offer a ~~male~~ male lamb one year old without defect."....IS THAT FOR SIN?.....NO!!!! This had nothing to do with sin. You offered it "for a burnt offering to the Lord."

The "burnt offering" was the first of the 5 offerings dealing with dedication and commitment of your life to the Lord.

Vs 13 goes on to tell you that it was a grain offering to the Lord... Now, come back to I Corinthians 15.....

Whatever the FIRST FRUITS IS....^{Crop}ATHE ~~COPE~~ THAT YOU BRING IS THE SAME. If you bring "wheat" the crop is "wheat". If you bring "barily" the crop is "braily".

This is very, very important in interpretation...WHY?...~~Because~~ Because whatever Christ is...in His resurrection, he is the First Fruit of that which follows.

Does that mean "believers" as well as "unbelievers". Or, Just "believers. Because both will be resurrected ~~from~~ from the dead. IT MEANS ONLY BELIEVERS... WHY?...Because the FIRST FRUITS, Christ, HIS RESUREction, is unique from other resurrections. His resurrection was not the first resurrection ever to happen in history....LISTEN, CAREFULLY....

There were three, for example, that preceded Christ. There was the resurrection of Lazarus. There was the resurrection of Jarius' daughter. There was the resurrection of the son of the widow of Nain....All three were dead. And all three were resurrected. And all three happened before Christ's resurrection

Then, how is Christ's first? The "first fruits" means "first of its kind." It means that what's following that first fruits or represents that kind, is a ^{special} simple kind. If it is wheat, it is wheat. If it is oats, it is oats. THAT IS THE POINT...

And the point of all those other resurrections that preceded it, is that they are not the same as believers resurrection. All of those three former resurrections, all those people died, again. It was only the ~~resurrect~~ resurrection of Christ, the very first time in history, that someone literally came out-off death, never to die again.

And the text makes that very, very clear. Jesus is currently alive. He will never die. He came back from the dead, never to return again. ~~And~~ And that is the believer's resurrection. The harvest that is coming is all the believers to be resurrected who will be like Christ. And they will never again die.

Not true of unbelievers. Unbelievers will be resurrected to stand before God at the Great White Throne judgment. (Rev. 20:11-15). But, they will experience death again. The Bible says that death and hades, which is the abode of the wicked dead, were resurrected to stand before God. And they were judged. Then death and Hades, the abode of the wicked dead, were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death says Revelation 20:14.

Jesus said in John 5 that there is ^{going} ~~to~~ to be a resurrection of unbelievers and a resurrection of believers. Two kinds. They are different from one another. So, Christ is the first fruits of what?....of the unbelievers resurrection?...NO WAY!! BECAUSE THEY WILL DIE AGAIN.

Only believers.....The certainty of our resurrection and that we will live forever is based upon the fact of Jesus arising from the dead....

One other thing about "first Fruits" from I Corinthians 15. And that is that the very words "first Fruits" that appears in your English Bibles as though it were plural is in the Greek "singular". And that emphasizes a tremendous point. It isn't first fruits meaning "a whole bunch sheaves. But the point is ONE. One person is the first fruit of the harvest. It is singular in the Greek. A fantastic point referring to Jesus alone and no one else. He was the first of that which is to follow. And that which is to follow is ~~AMEN~~ exactly like His resurrection. We will come forth from the dead never to die again...AREN'T YOU GLAD?.....PRAISE THE LORD....(Some of you look too tired to say AMEN.) I think it is great. We will never die again. That is what the Bible ~~says~~ says. Our resurrection is identical to the ~~resurrection~~ resurrection of Jesus Christ....?PEA PRAISE THE LORD....

So, the first fact about the certainty of our resurrection is that Biblical definition of "first Fruits".

Now, let's take a look at the human dilemma that we face. In Vs 21 it says "by man came death." The word "came" is in italics. It simply says: "by or through the channel of man---death was here.

Romans 5:12 says "by one man sin entered into the world. And death passed upon all men for all have sinned." Whether you like that or not. Death is a real fact of life. Where did it come from? The Bible says it came from Adam. Vs 22 says "For as in Adam all die".

The word "die" is present tense. Meaning: continue to die. The process of continuing to die that is fixed in the human race, according to the Bible is because we are all in "THE" Adam. The very first one. We can all trace our genealogy there. And in the Adam the process of dieing started. And it is throughout the human race. ALL DIE. That is the human dilemma.

I was in Vietnam when President Johnson gave his great speech on the "GREAT SOCIETY". Boy that was some speech. I tell you that he had us all fooled. THE GREAT SOCIETY.....HOW MANY OF YOU REMEMBER THAT?.....RIGHT!!.... (Now, we know how old you are)

The Great Society. What a speech that was. He said that things are going to be different. Well, they have been, but not exactly like he said....

And I remember what he said. It was so captivating, I wrote it down. Lyndon Johnson told us in that great speech that due to the brilliance of science today, due to the achievements of our medical world today, that the great society was going to extend our life. So that it will be a reality before the turn of the century, people will be able to live to at least 200 years old. We will finally conqueror, he said, the greatest enemy of all, which is death."

Well, death conquered him.....(ha)...But, it was a great speech. Now, the Bible says "that all shall die." Hebrews 9:27 says that "it is appointed unto man to die once, and after that comes the judgment." You are under divine appointment to die. God knows the day, the circumstance, every thing about it. It is a delimma.

Look! Are you really so brain washed by this culture to think that you are going to escape it? The most serious question that anyone can deal with is death.

Recently, a survey was made that has now been declared as the largest responds of any survey every taken in America, on a volunteer bases. There were over 30 thousand people who responded to this survey. More than any other time in history. Do you know what the subject was? DEATH..DEATH.. The final fact of life. Something we cannot escape.

But, praise God. There is divine deliverance coming, according to Scripture. Because as it says in Adam all shall die...Vs 22..."in Christ all shall be made alive."

Does that mean unbelievers? NO! Because they will not be resurrected like Christ. Only the believers will be resurrected like Christ. "in Christ all shall be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming."

(4) This brings us to the fourth fact: that it is all going to happen on one glorious day. Are you ready for that? Don't you just love that picture? It is so exciting. The Bible says that "in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet" it is going to happen. ~~It says that all that are~~
~~will be raised, and the dead in Christ will be resurrected~~

It says that the voice of the archangel, and the trumpet of God will sound; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together ."

When we read that phrase "caught up" we get our word "rapture". And thus we call this great event when believers will be caught up to be with the Lord, THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH.

Now, the word "caught up" (English) or "rapture" (Greek) basically means "to seize violently." I don't know how you thought this was going to take place, but the Lord isn't going to come around and tap you on the shoulder and say, "Are you ready now?" (Ha)

That is not the way it is going to happen. According to the Bible it is going to be violent. Seizing us...Literally..snatching us away out of this life. And may it come before the end of this sermon..(Amen) (Some of you are really nervous, now, right?) (ha)

It is going to come. It is going to be a glorious day. Those who are Christ's, it says. I like the way that that is possessive. I belong to Jesus. Don't you love that? Those who are Christ's. They belong to him.

"They" at that coming day are going to be resurrected.

Now, that little phrase "at his coming"..Vs 23, I have to tell you a little bit about it. It is the Greek word "par-ru-z-a" .

Now, think of a modern classroom. If you were a student in a class and the teacher was calling roll, you might respond by saying "PRESENT" when your name was called. Well, that is the Greek word "par-su-z-a."

It means "the presence of the Lord". It was used in ancient Greece of Kings and emperors on their coronation. They are now present as kings They have arrived. And there was a big procession as he was brought up to his throne. And they proclaimed a new age. In fact a whole new dating system was started on the basis of what was happening.

What a fantastic principle because the greatest coronation, the greatest event of all will be the coming of Jesus Christ.

The word in Greek is a simple word meaning "to be", "being there". And also a word meaning "along side of." And you put the two together and I love it. I AM GOING TO BE ALONG SIDE OF JESUS."

The night before he went to the cross, Jesus said to his disciples, in John 14, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to myself."

And again the Greek puts that preposition "along side of", and I love it. "I will take you along side of me forever.".....AMEN! ...(that is a little week) AMEN!

Praise the Lord. Jesus is going to come again. The resurrection. The certainty. It is all discussed here.

() But, then he brings us to the conquest of all his enemies , including death. Vs 23..."But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that." That phrase indicates a period of time. "After that"..and of course now it has almost been two thousand years. After that those who are Christ's at His coming , then."

"then" meaning "at that time" "comes the end". Do you see? When the Lord comes that is the end of everything.

Does the word "end " mean "annihilation"...No! No!. It is a Greek word meaning "perfect" or "mature" or "complete." So, the word means "to come to the completion of something".

The point is that an end is coming. A completion of God's program. What program is it? Is it the church age? Will it include the coming kingdom of God on earth? A thousand year reign of Christ? WHAT WILL IT INCLUDE? WHAT IS THE END THAT IS COMING?

Will let's deal with that. Let me give you a few facts.

(1)First, according to the context here in I Corinthians, the resurrection of Christ guarantees the end. The end is in sight. The completion of God' program. And a brand new age starts. So, the end is in sight. WHY?

Because Jesus arose from the dead. That is the guarantee. It is the first fruits. Praise the Lord. The guarantee that it is going to turn out just like God said is the literal, bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.

That is your guarantee that it is all going to take place. That is why we often say that the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of Christianity. It all rises and falls on it. That Jesus is alive and he is coming back for his church one day.

Now, according to this text when the end comes a couple of things are going to happen. (1) One, the kingdom will be delivered up by Christ to God and the Father. Now, what is he talking about?

Well, there are two major views,. One is that the kingdom is referring to a spiritual kingdom. People who come to know the Lord. For example: Jesus said to Nicodenus "accept a man be born again he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." So, it is a kingdom of those who have become disciple of Christ. And so the end would be..the end of that spiritual kingdom. AND at that point the Lord Jesus delivers up all ones who have come to know him. Delivers them back to God and says, "Here they are, Lord." That is one view.

(2) The second view is that the kingdom that he is talking about is not only including that, but refers to a literal kingdom that will be set up on earth, that will exist for 1 thousand years. And this is according to Revelation chapter 20. And Christ will rule as king on the throne of David in the city of Jersusalem. And his rule will be over the entire earth. And I believe that is the kingdom being referred to as I shall show you in a moment. It has to be.

When He delivers up that kingdom, His reign on the earth, back to God the Father.

(3) Now, a third thing that I bring to your attention is that according to this text the end happens when Christ "abolishes all human authority and power." Look at Vs 24 again, "then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom, and when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power."

When will Christ do that? Well, you say, at the end of the tribulation. He will defeat the nations of the world. TRUE....

Has he abolished all enemies at that point?...NO!

the end of the reign of Christ

At the end of the thousand year reign of Christ, according to Revelation 20, Satan will be released out of boundage and will deseve the nations of the world. He will gather these nations together against Christ and the Hol City. And there will be one big battle. Of course God will defeat them. And Satan will be cast into the lake jof fire. And all unbelievers will stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgement.

So, the abolishment of all power and authority comes at the end of the thousand year reiegn of Christ. So, when the kingdom is delievered, it is talking about His kingdom on earth. And when He abolishes all authority happend after the end of that kingdom. Now, please stay with me.

According to Vs 25, Christ must reign untill all His enemies are under His feet. That is what it says. "For He must reign". Literally, it is necessary for Him to reign. Untill He has put all his enemies under his feet. NOW WHY? Answer: It was God's original intention to do this in order to show us something about His plan. His origninal intention is to bring every thing under subjection to His son, Jesus Christ. That was God's plan. I will show you that in a moment.

() Finally, the last enemy is death, itself, according to the Bible.

So, when is the end going to come? When is this talking about? This completion of God's program? When do we start the eternal state?

The answer has to be after the millium. Because the Great White Throne Judgement will be when unb@lievers are resurrected to be judged. And the final verdic will be that they will be cast into the lake of fire. And the Bible calls this "the second death."

Death is not abolished or rendered powerless until the end of the Great White Throne Judgement. Then there will be death no more. No one will eve die again. The last enemy will be destroyed.

And how is that possible? That is all based upon the resurrection. His resurrection garantees that allthis will happen.

The point is that it is going to bring us, dear friends, as verses 27 and 28 tell us, "to the climac of all human history."

Now, I am trying to stretch your minds a little bit. But believe me, before I say AMEN I am going to bring you back down to what that means to you and me right now. Because there is a very important issued involved in all of this, in our christian lives.

But, just stretching your minds again. How is this whole thing of all of human history brought to a great climax. And what is that all about?

Vs 27 and 28 notice what your Bible says..."For He(meaning God the Father) has jput all things in subjection under His(meaning Jesus Christ) feet." (That is a quotation from Psalms 8 verse 6). "But when He says, 'All things are put in subjection,' it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. And when all things are subjected to Him(meaning to Christ) then the Son Himself also will be subjected to theOne who subjected all things to Him." NOW WHY? "THAT GOD MAY BE ALL IN ALL."

Now, let me just show you the climax of all human history.

(1) First, it is based upon the original purpose of God the Father. What was the original purpose of God the Father? According to this text it was to bring everything and everyone in subjection to His Son/. It is God's desire to honor his Son above everything. And says that that is very important to you and I.

As I shared in the beginning, most of us have a man centered view. Rather than a God centered view. You are not the main issue. GOD IS THE MAIN ISSUE. You are a channel for God to achive His original objective. Andhe wants to put everything under subjection to His Son. If you honor Jesus Christ, you honor the Father, says the Bible. You can never honor Jesus to much. God planned it that way. The Bible says that God the Father has highly exalted Jesus and has given Him a name that is above every name. That at the name of Jesus , every knee should bow and every tongue would confess that He is Lord. That is quite a statment.

Hebrews chapter 2 says that this little statement "to put all things under subjection to him", is not true now, because we do not see all thins under Him. But we will. Everything and everyone will (believer or unbeliever) will one day be subjected to the Son, Jesus Christ.

That is going to happen. And according to jEphesiand chapter 1, this great truth- that everything is subjected to him - is the reason why Jesus is made the head of the church. Do you know why He is the real head of the church? Because it is the original purpose of God the Father to make Him number one. And for everybody to submit to him. That is God's intention. If you are not submissive to Jesus Christ, you are violating the plan of th who made you. You are saying, "I don't need to listen to God, I can run my own life. I don't need to submit to his plan."

But, listen, you are doing so at great risk to your own life. The problems that result because we do not submit to Jesus Christ are enormous.

And then when we get ourself in a mess we want some counselor to some how put it back together. So that we can have some measure of peace and happiness and joy. Andthe whole problem, again, is that it is man centered, Not God centered. We want our problems resolvedso that we can have a little bit of happiness, a little bit of peace,..And yet, we got into the mess because we refused to bow the knee to Jesus Christ.

And, dear friends, you will never get out of the mess until you submit totally to Him who alone is worthy.

And this principle, dear friends, effects every area of your life: business, marriage, family, your hopes, your dreams, your money...everything. Total submission to Jesus Christ.

() And, also, this climax of all history is not only based upon God's original purpose as it relates to Jesus, but it is also based on the pre-eminence of God the Father. God the Father is number one, dear friends. And one body else comes and takes His jrole.

And evera when he sasy that he jput everything under subjection to Him, obviously he is superior because the text says in Vs 27 that He is excepted or excluded from that. The Father didn't, also, come under Jesus. He is the one who wants everything jto be jput under Jesus. The Father is number one, dear friends.

And most Christians are totally ignorant of this. That don't understand.

Romans 11:36. This is a fantastic verse. Romans 11:36 says "For from him and through Him and to Him are all things" This is talking about God the Father. Now, watch this.

"From him" meaning by way of source are all things. Everything that has every happened. Every thing that has been created or made. All comes from God the Father's directed will.

All things are from Him and working "through Him." The channel by which anything happens, dear friends, in this jworld, the channel in the fianal analys is God the Father. He is running the show. Whether you like that or not.

And "to Him" by way of object and source, is all things. In other words where is everything headed? People ask the question: "Where is history headed?" And the answer to that is "back to the heavenly Father from where it all started."

God the Father is in absolute control. All the nations of world, all the continueds of the world, all the people of the world, all the suffer of the world. You ask, "Why suffering....why sin...why sickness. How come all these things?"

Listen, God is in control and everything that is happening is a result of his decision, his plan, his purposes. And untill you see that, you mind, your life is all out of focus and perspective. It is all man centered and not God centered. Until you see, God the Father is designing everything, includeing you, and the circumstances of your life to all come back to himself, you will remain confused. It is not only seeing the fact that He himself is superior to everything and therefore could not be subject even to His own son, but it is also seen very clearly in the submission of the son. Have you ever stopped jto realize that? The submission of Jesus jto the Father is not just to teach us about submission, although it is that, but it is a fact, dear friends. That God the Father is number one. And Jesus is submissive to Him.

People says, "Well, Jesus was only submissive while He was here on earth."

You had better get that out of your head. This text says that before the end, before the eternal state, he will deliver the kingdom back to the heavenly Father. And he, himself, according to Vs 28, will also subject himself to the One who subjected all things to him.

Do you know what this proves to me? Do you believe that Jesus is God? Absolutely, the Bible says so. Do you believe the Father is God? Most people automatically accept that. But there is only one text that calls the Father God. It seems that God knew what our problem would be. And so there are more text dealing with the fact that Jesus is God than the Father as God. Do you believe the Holy Spirit is God? You see, they are all God.

Then how can God subject himself to God? THAT IS THE BIG QUESTION, RIGHT? How could that really happen?

That is the question those people in the white shirts and ties and ride bikes and come by your homes. That is what they tell you. HOW IN THE WORLD COULD JESUS BE GOD AND SUBJECT HIMSELF TO THE HEAVENLY FATHER?

Well, folks that doesn't bother me one bit. Because it isn't even in his life that the problem exist. It is even after the millimum. In the eternal state Jesus will continue to be subjected to the Father.

Do you know what that shows me? It shows me that equals can voluntarily of their own choice because of who they are, subject themselves to one another. That doesn't bother me. Because you know the same truth is taught in marriage? Do you know why most of us fight subjection? People say to me all the time, "Why did God make the man head of the home, why not woman? WELL, HE JUST DID. PERIOD! And he has the right. There wasn't any competition at that time, do you understand? (ha)

You say, "I don't like that." But remember, if your the man and you are designated to be the head, God also tells you that you are co-equal with that woman, heirs of life, co-equal on the same plain. (I Peter 3:7) And you are to honor the wife because of this fact. And the Bible says, "that you are also to subject yourself to her." Ephesians 5:21

Your are equals. Yet, their is the principle of subjection. 

Do you understand? God the Father and God the Son have taught that to us. They are co-equal. They all have the same attributes. But willingly of their own selves made that decision. Jesus subjects himself to the heavenly Father. And you can do the same, if you want to. If you really want to be happy in any walk of life. You don't have to wait until someone has a title over you, or a greater age, or more money, or all those human factors that are based on submission. You don't have to wait for any of it. You can, of your own free will, just like Jesus subject yourself to anyone. No matter who they are. Then you will really be free, when you can do that. () One finally thing. This climax of all history is based upon the plan of God the Father to glorify himself. And that greatly effects your life and mine. Why we are living. What we are doing. Everything we are doing in life.

Vs 28 says that the reason God did all of this is "that God may be all in all." And there are a lot of ways to read that. He can be things... Everything to everyone....Or, everything in every way...It really doesn't make any difference. THE POINT IS THAT HE IS EVERYTHING.

He is number one. He is the final goal. He is the real issue. God is the center of everything. He is all in all.

God had a right to do that. Revelation 4:11 says that "he made all things for his own pleasure." WHY DID GOD DO WHAT HE DID? WHY DID HE MAKE US? "WHY SUFFERING? WHY DEATH? WHY PROBLEMS? What all of this?

And every time God answers us and says "I did it because I want to." And my ultimate reason is to bring glory back to myself. And He will do it. The Bible says "he will even take the wrath of men to praise His name." He said, "I will raise up an ungodly man like Pharaoh to glorify my name. I will have mercy upon whom I will have mercy. I will harden whom I will harden. I will do what I want to do." WHY? Because He is who He is, dear friends. When will we ever learn that.

We fight it. We question it. And Paul wrote in Romans 9 "What right does clay have to say to the potter..Why did you make me like this?"

And the answer is: Because he wanted to. And we don't have any right to question it. Our position...if we really get a whole of this, dear friends, is to subject ourselves...to submit ourselves to He alone who is worthy. To say, "Lord, I don't deserve to run my life. I can't run my life, I have got to stop trying to be number one. And Lord, I understand that you are number one. And your divine purpose for me is to submit to you.

And I ask your christian, have you made that decision? Listen, God will test you a hundred times and more to see if you have really submitted yourself...your money...your job..your time..your marriage..your desires..your habits....HAVE YOU REALLY SUBMITTED TO THE LORDSHIP OF GOD ALMIGHTY?

That is the realy issue confronting all of us in life. WHAT ABOUT YOUR SUBMISSION TO GOD?

Shall we close in prayer