

Will This Man Reign Over Us - Submitting to His Reign

by Phil Beach Jr.

The sermon emphasizes the necessity of submitting to the reign of Christ and recognizing His authority in our lives through the story of Joseph.

Duration: 1:05:20

Scripture: Genesis 37:3

Topics: "God", "Submission to Christ", "The Authority of Jesus"

Description

Phil Beach Jr. emphasizes the necessity of submitting to the reign of Christ, drawing parallels between Joseph's story and the authority of Jesus in our lives. He challenges the congregation to confront their resistance to Christ's dominion, highlighting that true submission requires vulnerability and accountability within the body of believers. The sermon calls for a deep, transformative relationship with God that goes beyond mere profession of faith, urging individuals to embrace the light of Christ that exposes their hearts and behaviors. Beach Jr. stresses that the light of Christ demands a response of humility and obedience, leading to genuine change in our lives and relationships.

Transcript

We thank you, Lord, for the word that is quick and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword. Father, our hearts are hungry this morning. To know you.

There's a deep groaning within your heart, Lord. A groaning, a travail that your name would be glorified in the earth and that we want to know that travail. We want to know that groaning, Lord, we want to know what's on your heart today, what's on your heart now, Lord, what would you speak to us? What would you say to us, Lord? Father, as we sang, we want to hear your voice.

The beautiful voice. Of your Holy Spirit, as he speaks through your word into our hearts. Dear father, I pray.

That you would anoint our eyes. With I saw. That we might see and anoint our ears that we might hear.

And anoint our hearts that we might receive. I pray for meekness, Lord, which is the only type of heart that can receive the engrafted word. Oh, God, we look to you, our enabling is from you, our sufficiency is in you.

God, go deeply into our hearts today. By your word. Give us the big picture, Lord, of what you're after, I pray, Lord, that this word will change lives, it'll change the way we behave, it'll change the way we act.

At home, it'll change the way we act one with another, I pray husbands will be changed today, Lord. In the way that they behave toward their wives, wives will be changed in the way they behave toward their husbands, Lord, we look to you. To perform this word in the mighty name of your son, we pray, Lord.

Amen and amen. Genesis chapter 37. Genesis chapter 37.

Last week we had a technical failure as far as the taping. We're going to continue along this theme as this is a very, very, very important. Theme, a very important issue in the heart of the Lord this morning.

And I pray that each of us will recognize that this is not a message that we listen to here and then we leave and say, oh, my. What what a fine sermon, what a what a fine lecture, if you and I truly hear. Here with the ears of our heart, what the Holy Spirit is trying to say through his word, this will not simply be a message that you hear and comment about, but it'll be a message that gets into the depths of your heart, into the depths of your spirit, into the depths of your mind, and it will be with you day and night.

You won't be able to shake this. You won't be able to you won't be able to escape this message that the father wants to speak in our hearts in this late, dark hour. The title of this message is very simple.

And this is the subtitle submitting to his reign. But the title of this message is very simple. Listen carefully and we we're we're we're we're finding this title right from Genesis chapter thirty seven.

Will this man. Rain. Over us, will this man rain.

Over us, Genesis chapter thirty seven, beginning in verse number three, now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children. We're going to read a few verses and then we're going to make some comments. Joseph was loved by Jacob more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age, he had made him a coat of many colors.

And when his brethren saw that their father loved him more than all his brethren, they hated him and could not speak peaceably unto him. And Joseph dreamed a dream. And he told it to his brethren and they hated him yet the more.

And he said to them, here, I pray you, this dream which I dreamed for, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field and low. My sheep arose. And also stood upright.

And behold, your sheep stood round about and bowed down, paid homage. Bowed down and paid homage to my sheep. And his brethren said to him, listen carefully.

Shall you indeed rain over us? Shall you indeed rain over us, Joseph, Joseph, what are you trying to say to us, Joseph, all thou favored son, all thou son with many colors, a coat with many colors, all thou loved by our father, Jacob, what are you trying to say to us? Shall you rain over us? These words are reverberating from the heart of God into our hearts today. Now, listen carefully. Shall you rain over us or shall you indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams and for his words.

And he dreamed yet another dream. In the mouth of two or three witnesses, let every word be established, God gave Joseph two dreams in order to establish the surety of what was being. Orchestrated here.

Now, listen, this is a story now about Joseph, but it's going to come home, it's going to come home very shortly. So just please bear with the reading of the word. It's going to come home.

And he dreamed yet another dream and told it to his brethren and said, behold, I have dreamed the dream more. And behold, the sun, the moon and the 11 stars paid homage to me, bowed down to me. And he told it to his father and to his brethren, and his father rebuked him and said to him, what is this dream that thou has dreamed? Shall I and my mother and my brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee, to the earth and his brethren envied him, but his father observed the sayings.

This story about Joseph being determined by God to reign over his brothers and his family is a type. It's a picture of the purpose of God that he purposed in his son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, Joseph's brothers were angry at Joseph.

For a number of reasons. We're going to look at a few of those reasons and what we're going to learn is something about our own selves. And the root behind why we find ourself angry at the greater Joseph, the greater Joseph being the Lord Jesus himself.

Now, please listen carefully. Let us let God's word speak into our hearts. Joseph's brothers were angry.

Because Joseph representing something to them that they despised. Joseph represented something to his brothers that they despised. It highly offended them, and it's all wrapped up in three facts about Joseph.

The anger, the envy. The murder within the hearts of Joseph brothers is all wrapped up. Over three issues.

That God. Had settled, had declared, had decreed about his son, Joseph, that Jacob had decreed about his son, Joseph, that Joseph's brothers refused to accept. Now, brothers and sisters, as we go into this word.

I need to say this and I and I beg you to pray and ask God to help you understand this as I myself in praying, asking God to continuously help me to understand this. The truth that we are looking at in this particular portion of Scripture will be a stumbling block to us, as well as an impossible thing. To obey.

An impossible thing to obey without the direct empowerment of the Holy Spirit working in our life. And so every single one of us are going to be brought to a crisis through the good word of God today. And that crisis is going to be our hearts being laid bare.

As to our utter need for the power of the new covenant to kick in, the power of the new covenant to kick into our lives and to empower us daily. Hopefully we're going to see why it's so important to have the power of the Holy Spirit, the power of the word of God, the power of divine grace. We're going to see why God goes through great measures to weaken us, to take the wind out of our sails.

He allows us to go through tests and trials as we've been ministering on for months now, but the trying of our faith, not because he wants to hurt us, not because he's against us, not because he doesn't love us, but on the contrary, he loves us too much to let us go our own way. He loves us too much to let us get into this battle and try and fight it in our own strength. And so the meaning, the meaning behind what you're going through right now, no matter what it is, the meaning behind it is that God is setting you up so that you can learn the empowerment and the enabling.

And the endowment that comes from him so that your heart can change and that you can truly, truly know what it is to let him have dominion and reign over you. Now, watch this. Watch this.

Joseph represented something that his brothers despised, Joseph came along his brothers and suddenly became a bright, shining light into the hearts of his brothers, as well as his father and mother. When this greater Joseph, the Lord Jesus Christ, comes into our midst, comes into our lives, comes into our homes, when he reveals himself in his word, there is nobody mother, father, brother, sister. There is nobody that is exempt from the brightness of the light that shines from his countenance.

There is no one that's exempt from the brightness of the light that shines from his word. Thy word is a light, a bright light. First, John.

First, John, you can turn there if you like. We're going to walk through this. We're going to ask the Holy Spirit to change our lives.

First, John. Chapter one. Verse five, this then is the message which you have heard of him and declare unto you that God is light and in him is no darkness.

God is light and in him is no darkness. One of the qualities of light, one of the features of the light that radiates from the countenance of the Lord Jesus Christ is the light of his reign, his dominion, his authority. When the light of God shines into the heart of a company of believers, whether it's individually or whether it's corporately, inevitably, inevitably, we must come face to face with the fact that the light, the light that comes from the countenance of Christ demands, not suggests, demands submission to its authority and to its reign and to its power.

God is light and in him is no darkness. So what was this light saying to Joseph's brothers as a type, as a picture, as a foreshadow of what the great light is saying? That is radiating from the countenance of the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, as he stands in our midst as our elder brother. What is the light saying? Here, you see me, this is what the light is saying that you see me, I am an authority greater than you, an authority that must conquer you, overcome you, an authority that you must acknowledge, an authority that you must accept, an authority that you must become subject to.

I am an authority raised up by God that you must bow to. Can you see why Joseph's brothers got a little upset here? And let me ask you a question, please be honest, can you see. Joseph's brothers response.

In your own heart. What do you do when Christ. Through his word, through his Holy Spirit, and as we touched on last week, through the light that's shining from different members of the body of Christ, what do you do when that light shines into your life? Shall this man have dominion over me? Shall this man reign over me? Shall I bow, shall I become subject to this authority? The greater Joseph stands in our midst and he says, I am the favored son.

As Joseph was loved by his father, Jacob, even so, our father in heaven loves his son, the Lord Jesus Christ, with an eternal and everlasting love, loved the Lord Jesus Christ, has honored the Lord Jesus Christ with the coat of many colors, the coat of many colors indicated a place of great honor and affection. And when Joseph's brothers looked at Joseph, they saw someone who was deeply loved, deeply honored by his father. The Lord Jesus stands in our midst this morning.

As the favored son. Brothers and sisters, we stand. Apart from the fact that we've been justified, apart from the fact that we've been made children of God, left to ourself.

Left to the dictates of our own fleshly mind, we stand in the midst of the Lord Jesus Christ. And we see the place that God has give him. We see the fact that he declares to us as Joseph did.

Brothers, brothers, guess what? God has shown me that I am to reign over you. God has shown me that I'm to have dominion over you. God has shown me that I am the one that you must bow to.

And the Lord Jesus stands in our midst and he says. I am he that became dead and am alive forevermore. And our father in heaven has given me the place of dominion and authority and honor that at my name, the greater Joseph stands in our midst now.

And he says at my name, at the name of Jesus Christ, every knee shall bow. Every tongue shall confess. He stands in our midst as the the blessed one.

The honored one. The one who has been determined by God to reign as king and lord. Lord, and we are exposed.

As those. Who, without the grace of God, without the spirit of God, without the influence of grace working in our life day after day, moment after moment, we are exposed, brothers and sisters, as being like Joseph's brothers. Who, when confronted by this authority, confronted by this declaration, resented his brother Joseph.

And resolved to kill him. To extinguish that light. Shall this man reign over us? Shall this man have dominion over us? And today there was a cry ascending to the heart of God, and it's not coming from the world, it's there, that's a given.

There's a cry ascending to the heart of God. Wherever Jesus reveals himself as the favored son, wherever Jesus makes himself known to his brothers and sisters, the cry is the cry of shall this man reign over us? You see, our father in heaven is not interested in simply a profession of faith, but he's interested in a possession of faith, a possession. Many shall say, Lord, Lord.

The wise man and the foolish man. Has nothing to do with one professed him as king and the other didn't profess him as king, that's not that's not what the wise and the foolish man is about. The wise man is the one that heard.

And. Did the foolish is the one that heard and. Didn't do.

The wise are those who hear Joseph say. Father has made me to rule over you, father has made me to have dominion over you, father has given me a place of absolute authority in your life, the wise by grace. By grace.

By weakness. Cry out, yes, Lord, yes, master, we bow, we pay homage to you, we say, Lord, have your way in my life as miserable as I am, as proud as I am to rebel against your authority, have your way in my life, God, by grace, change me. I want to obey you.

I want every area of darkness in my life, every area of rebellion in my life, every idol in my life. I want you to uproot. Father, as a husband, I want you to cleanse me from every form of unkindness, every form.

Of conditional love. Every bit of selfish insensitivity toward my wife, father, I want you to cleanse me from it. You see, brothers and sisters, this goes far deeper than simply singing about he is king of kings and lord of lords.

This searches the very depths of our being. Shall this man reign over me every single time, brothers and sisters, we are confronted with a ray of light from the countenance of the son of God, albeit from the word of God, or whether it's fellowshiping in the light of God shines through a brother or a sister and it exposes some area of darkness in our life and we resist it. We're challenging his reign in our life.

We're challenging his dominion in our life. We're falling prey to the very sins that Joseph's brothers committed. And if God, by his grace, doesn't rescue us from that, where will it lead? It will lead to a conspiracy within our hearts to somehow extinguish that light.

If we don't love light, we will resent light and fight against light. I am the greater Joseph, the Lord Jesus says to us by his word, and I stand in your midst. I stand in your life.

I stand in your family. I come in the midst of your family. I come in the midst of your workplace.

I come in the midst of your car. I come in the midst of your wherever you are. I stand as the greater Joseph.

I am continuously, continuously reminding you that Father gave me the dreams. I am the favored one. And I bid you to bow to my authority.

It doesn't go well with us, let's be honest. That doesn't go well with us. We smile at the thought of Jesus being Lord, but boy, do we do we get offended when he touches the depths of our heart? And demands our allegiance.

And if you remember last week, that includes the need to submit to one another. As we see the greater light, the Lord Jesus Christ shining through one another. If I see a quality in my brother.

Toward his wife. A quality of tenderness. And it doesn't have to be an official thing, I don't have to be going to a Bible study, I can just watch him interact with his wife.

And if I see the light of the greater Joseph shining through my brother. And something in me is exposed. And I see that there's something of the greater Joseph shining through him that hasn't got that place in my life.

And I go embrace that light and submit to it and bow to it. Then I can come all I want to a gathering like this. Where you can meet seven nights a week in your home.

And you can sing songs about he is Lord, he is Lord. But the Spirit of God is saying to you, ah, ah. Is it that you are saying, shall this man rule over me? Shall this man have dominion over me? And if you listen to the Spirit, this is the kind of dealings that God will have with those who are destined to walk with Him in white.

It's not going to be a superficial religion, brothers and sisters. It's going to be a heart-searching, grace-wrought, Spirit-empowered devastation. Where God will devastate you and bring you down so that every fiber in your being.

Every fiber in your being will be bowed to the authority of Christ. And if you listen, the Spirit of God will say, how can you sing this song, my son, my daughter? Do you remember when you saw that quality in your brother? Do you remember when in a moment's time you recognized, you saw that there was something of me shining in him that wasn't wrought in your life? Yes, Lord. What did you do? I resented it, Lord.

I don't sit next to him anymore. I used to like to sit next to my brother until that light began to shine. Now I sit far away from him.

He bothers me, Gary. He reminds me of my need to bow. You see, many of us don't mind bowing our knee to Christ in our prayer closet.

But what about bowing your knee to your brother? Huh? What about bowing your knee to your brother and becoming accountable to the light that's shining through your brother's life? Come on! Come on! Are you with the Spirit of God? I'll work this salvation out myself. Thank you, Brother Phil. Thank you.

Don't you get in my face. Christ is my Savior. Hallelujah.

Don't play the Holy Spirit. Oh, shall this man reign over you? What if God wants to work something in your life from some vessel that you think is a lot less spiritual than you are? Huh? Or even worldly. What are you going to do? What are you going to do with the claim of Christ on your life when He manifests that claim through an unlikely vessel, an unlikely circumstance, an unlikely person? We get huffy.

We get puffy. We resist. And you know what? We're falling trap to the sins of Joseph's brothers.

And we are conspiring. We are conspiring. We are resenting the light.

Why? Because all light... Listen, brothers and sisters. All light intrinsically, intrinsically brings the necessity of Christ's reign, Christ's dominion, and Christ's authority. Listen, all light from God has an intrinsic value.

It demands the bowing down. This, as we briefly touched on last week, this is what true body life... There's a lot of talk about body life in the church today. You know why? Because believers are realizing that it's not good enough to just go to church on Sunday and sit and listen to a preacher preach.

There's a place for the preaching and teaching of the Word of God. And never, ever should it be removed. But brothers and sisters, God is after something that goes beyond coming to a building like this and worshiping together and hearing the Word of God preached.

He's after the brightness of His light shining daily in our lives. As we are sovereignly joined together by God's hand, not by an organizational attempt by men. You can't orchestrate it.

You can't organize it. You can't put it together. But every true believer whose heart has seen the Lord Jesus Christ and has seen God's purpose to corporately manifest His glory, every true believer will begin to recognize their need, not only for Christ, but their need for the contribution of others into their life.

And they will begin to groan and pray. Not act and try and do it, but groan and pray. And say, Father, Father, put the living stones in my life that You have chosen that I can have church with.

This is not church. This is a gathering. This is a gathering.

Now, certainly, the church is made up of believers, but the true meaning of church goes beyond simply gathering together to hear the Word of God. You can't have church with hundreds of people. You can't become interrelated with hundreds of people.

It's impossible. And so what Father wants to do is He wants to sovereignly place people in our life. One, two, three, four.

And by His hand, His hand, knit the hearts together, and by an act of His Spirit under His headship, you begin to walk together with one another. You begin to interact in each other's lives. Light begins to shine.

Iron begins to sharpen iron. Listen, a spirit-raw accountability begins to occur. It's born out of relationship, not a hierarchy.

It's relational. And in this setting, the reign and dominion and authority of Christ is enhanced in our life because the claims of Christ begin to shine brightly into our lives through the lives of others. Let me ask you a question.

Listen. Who has God placed in your life that you're walking with? Now, I'm not talking about playing ping pong with, although play ping pong if you want. Now, I'm not talking about playing soccer, although play soccer if you want, or tennis, or swimming together, or bicycling together.

I'm talking about whom has God joined you to where there is a mutual giving and receiving and submitting to the light. The light that's demanding an ever-increasing need in your life to give the King, the greater Joseph, more preeminence in your life. Some here and many, many other places know nothing of this truth.

And spiritual weakness is the result. How can these things happen? How do they happen? Well, what did Jesus say? Jesus said, I shall build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail. Now, who's building the church? Christ.

They happen as we are awakened to our need and they begin to cry out, O Father, O Father, please do this in my life. I'm tired of being an island to myself. I thank You, Lord, for the Word.

I thank You for the Holy Spirit. I thank You that Your Word is so precious to me. I thank You, Lord, that You talk with me.

But God, I'm members. I'm a member of a living body. I need my brothers and sisters.

Listen, listen. It's not a codependent thing. That's not what God is saying now.

Please, we must learn to distinguish between things that differ. The two extremes. The one extreme is it's me and Jesus and no one else.

Bless God. I'm going to make it, brother. God's going to grow me up.

Now, there is truth there. Every single individual member of the body of Christ must know the beauty and joy of communing with Christ and His Word. Must be under the headship of Christ.

The other extreme is, oh, I can't live unless I talk to my sister Susanna. I can't talk unless I see my brother Norman. Oh, I can't survive.

I just can't live. I just can't live. I just can't live this Christian life.

And then once God brings people into our life, we grab hold of them. We want them for ourself. And when our expectations aren't met, we get mad.

We try and hold on to the friendships and the relationships. We try and use them and manipulate them. And we begin to drink from each other's spirit rather than drinking from the eternal Spirit, the Lord Jesus

Christ.

We've seen that over and over again in the body of Christ. The two extremes. The Lone Ranger, bless God it's me and God and no one else syndrome.

And then everything is fellowship. Everything is fellowship. Everything is fellowship.

And the head has somehow been disconnected from the fellowship. And the individual believers are not really drawing from the Lord in the fellowship, but they're drawing from one another. It becomes inordinate and unwholesome.

So what's God's thought? Balance. Balance. Balance.

He wants to develop in the body of Christ an unquestionable revelation given to each individual member of the body of Christ the truth that He is our shepherd. He wants to walk with us. He wants to talk with us.

He wants to feed us from His word. He wants to be our head. But equally important, and don't forget this, brothers and sisters, He wants us to recognize the truth that we are members one of another and that God has ordained that the body comes to maturity as it not only draws from the head in the prayer closet, but as it draws from the head as He reveals Himself through the members of the body of Christ.

That doesn't happen in a particular gathering, a Sunday morning gathering. It can't. It's a daily thing.

It's a relational thing. Listen, every single house here should be a church. Every house should be a church here.

That is, you should be connected to a few people. You speak into each other's lives and you let the Lord Jesus Christ establish more and more of His reign through that relationship. That's what church is.

And for the maturity that God is looking for to occur in the body of Christ today, we're going to have to hear the shepherd speak to us. We're going to have to throw out the substitutes that we have put into our Christian life. Substituting.

First of all, I walk with the Lord. And second, substituting the real, genuine fellowship that is essential that God wants to establish in our lives. We've substituted it for all manner of things, but there's no substitute.

The greater Joseph stands in our midst. And here's what he says. I am the sovereign authority that will reveal your selfish ambitions and self-centered living.

Let me tell you something, brothers and sisters. Please listen. Self-centered living is most effectively dealt... Please listen.

Don't misunderstand what I'm about to say because you might. Self-centered living is most effectively dealt when you are in fellowship with and submitting to a community of believers. Not simply in your prayer closet, alone with God.

Oh God, I want You to take my selfish lifestyle out of me. Now, that's a beginning and praise God for it. But when you, by God's doing, not by a bunch of men coming together and saying, okay now, we're going to teach you how to be a community-minded church.

Now this is what you're going to do and this is what you're going to do. And we want you to submit to this one and you submit to that one. No, no, no.

Get your hands off it. You can't touch it. God does this.

God wants to birth little communities of believers all over the body of Christ where this spiritual dynamic is operating. You want to see how selfish your heart is? You come under the harness of God's sovereign dealing when He starts bringing people into your life which means accountability. Which means being vulnerable.

You don't get up in front of a 400 group auditorium and begin to pour your guts out and tell people about all your sins and your struggles. That's foolish. But you do do that with those that God... God! I say over and over again that God has uniquely knit your heart together with.

Oh, but my, my, my. Do you know what I hear as these aspects of God's heart are brought to us? Shall this man rule over me? Shall I submit myself to this? That cramps my lifestyle. Exactly.

That cramps who I am. I want my freedom. I don't want someone in my face, bless God.

And you know why? That's why we remain the way we are. Stubborn, immature, weak, self-centered. Because we are our own lords many times and our own masters.

I will expose your self-centered living. I will come and expose all your pride, all your boasting, all your hypocrisies. You know why some husbands treat their wives horribly at home for years and years and years and yet they can come into a gathering like this and smile because they've made their home an iron palace.

No one penetrates it. They do what they want in their home. They say what they want.

There's no light shining in the home. There's no accountability. I hope that God is giving us ears to hear because the shepherd is speaking now.

He's speaking. That's why. There's behavior patterns in our lives that have been there for years and years and years.

Now, like Suzanne said, behavior patterns are a reflection of what? The heart. But how can the heart be changed without light? It can't. See, but we don't want the light to invade our little iron palace because we're saying, in fact, this man shall not rule over this area in my life.

I can't let... No way! You see? And we have to confess this sin. We have to confess this sin. Brothers and sisters, if we love light, we will embrace it.

But if we resist light, we'll avoid it. I know this is bright. This will touch every area of our life.

But do we want Him to reign supreme? All your hypocrisies and your boasting and your hidden desires to be seen and known of men. Oh yes, I am that authority, the greater Joseph says. Oh yes, our Father in Heaven has placed Me in your life.

And the light of My countenance will demand your submission and allegiance. Are we attracted to this kind of Christianity? Are we attracted to this kind of light? Or do we find our hearts, even as Joseph's brother's

hearts, resisting, resenting, revolting? Are we living a life in a way to avoid the light? Do we plot against this light to somehow extinguish its brilliance from shining into every nook and cranny of our life? Do you, under the guidance of God, and I emphasize that, the Spirit of God emphasizes that over and over again, under the guidance of God, I'm not talking about getting plugged into some kind of an organized method to synthetically try and reproduce these things into a system of principles. It won't work.

It won't work. You can't organize this. This is organic.

It takes on an expression, but the expression is the result of what God is doing, not what man has put together to make it look like God. And so I want to emphasize that. Are we seeking out, under the guidance of God, members of the body of Christ who shine light, who shine the light of the greater Joseph so brightly that it exposes our darkness, exposes our duplicity, exposes our hypocrisy, exposes areas of immaturity in our life, resulting in an opportunity to bow to that authority, embrace that light, and ask God to change you because of the light shining in your brother's life? Are you seeking it out? Or do you rather find it to be quite convenient to live in darkness and avoid the need to be accountable, confess your false one to another? Listen, there's some here who have had a besetting sin for many years.

Listen to the Word of the Lord right now. And you've prayed and said, Oh God, when is this thing going to get helped? I prayed, I fasted, I sought your word, I sought your counsel. And here's what God's saying to you now.

He's saying, You'll be healed when you come under the harness of this revelation. And by God's hand, learn submission to one another. Not until.

Now listen, we're about to close. Do you remember at the beginning? This was going to try us. Submitting to His reign.

Light. Intrinsicly possesses the quality of His reign, His dominion, and His authority. We'll readily agree that God's Word is light.

Oh yes, give me God's Word. But there's a dynamic that God wants to develop here that brings the bigger picture of the body of Christ. Now listen, 1 John 1. We were reading in.

I just want to read a few verses and just read a few more Scriptures and then let God speak to us. This then is the message which we have heard of Him and declare to you that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. Listen, if we say that we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth.

Brothers and sisters, every single time we see light from our brothers and sisters and resist it, we walk in darkness. We're choosing darkness rather than light. And we are lying against the truth.

Because that light is intended by God to further His reign and His dominion and His authority in our life. Oh, how we need grace. How we need the Holy Spirit.

And how we need more time. I realize the time, Norman. I can hear his thoughts.

Listen now for seven. But if we walk in the light. Oh, this is this is like this is music to God.

If I mean, I could. You could almost sing a song if we walk in the light. As he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another brothers and sisters, no true fellowship.

Unless it is the light of his countenance that we are together walking in and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all. Sin. One more scripture and we're closing.

First, Peter, shall this man reign over us? Verse five. Likewise, chapter five, first, Peter, you younger, submit yourselves to the elder. This is not a hierarchical submission.

This is not a submission by virtue of a position that someone claims to have in the body of Christ. This is a submission based on light, light, light, younger. Submit yourselves to the elder who by virtue of being older in the Lord will have light.

Submit yourselves to the light. To the Word that is in their life. If I were you, I'd pray and find people to hang out with that are free from greed and covetousness so that you can learn what it means to live a lifestyle.

Yea, all of you be subject one to another and be clothed with humility for God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. That's all we have time for, brothers and sisters. We're going to continue with this word.

Let's just bow our hearts for a moment. We're going to ask Colette if she'll come to the piano and we want to give just a few moments to the Lord now. We've heard the claims of Christ as the greater Joseph.

We've heard him this morning. He stands in our midst as the honored one and now we need grace. We need the Holy Spirit's power because His dominion must be established in every area of our life to please Him.

It's by grace. Father, we just want to begin by confessing Your Word is light and it has exposed our rebellion. It has exposed our resistance.

And even at times we've plotted ways to avoid the light that would demand our need to bow. Forgive us, Father. Thank You we can come to You and not be rejected.

But Lord, we don't want just forgiveness anymore. We want change. Give us grace as we confess our sin.

Give us the Holy Spirit. More of the Holy Spirit. And empower us to embrace the light.

Lord, help us to love the light that's in our brother and sister's life. Help us to love it and embrace it and honor it and submit to it that You might be glorified all in all. Say yes, Lord.

Say yes, Lord. Here I am. Let's sing it one more time.

Lord, we're saying yes. Here we are. Empower me to embrace the light, Lord.

To be changed by the light of Your grace and transformed through and through. Through and through, Lord. Spirit, soul, and body preserved blameless by the power of Your grace.

In Jesus' name. Hallelujah!

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