

Doing the Will of God in the Two Systems of God in the Universe

Scripture Reading: Psa. 2; 1 Pet. 2:21-25; 4:17; 5:5-6, 10

I. God has two systems in this universe: One we call the system of grace, and the other we call the system of government—1 Pet. 5:5-6, 10:

- A. Everything related to the church, the Holy Spirit, redemption, our salvation, and our being God's children are within the system of grace.
- B. The system of government is altogether different from the system of grace and is separate from the system of grace:
 - 1. In the system of government God has an independent will, and He operates according to His own pleasure—Eph. 1:5, 11; Rev. 4:11.
 - 2. God's government refers to how God works, manages, and arranges things according to His plan and will.
- C. The system of government works on a different principle from the system of grace—footnote 3, 1 Pet. 2:21.
- D. From the beginning, God has been trying to usher in His governmental system, and He will continue this work until the end—1 Cor. 15:24-28.
- E. We must learn to acknowledge God's government; if we are oblivious to God's government, we are lawless in the eyes of God—Matt. 7:21; 12:50.
- F. God's intention is that we would respect His government; He has no intention for us to annul His government—1 Pet. 5:5-6.

II. When the Lord Jesus was on earth, He was under God's government and lived under God's government—2:22-25:

- A. Because the Lord lived under God's government, He committed all His sufferings to God, the One who judges righteously; judging righteously is a matter of God's government.
- B. On the one hand, when the Lord Jesus was on earth, He was the Savior to deliver men from sin; this was His work under the system of grace—v. 24.
- C. On the other hand, God's desire is for the Lord Jesus to establish His authority and heavenly kingdom through the work of the cross, with the result that heaven's reign will be brought to the earth—3:22; Rev. 11:15.

III. The system of grace perfects the system of government—Rom. 3:24; Eph. 2:8; Matt. 6:33:

- A. Those who are saved in this age must learn the fundamental lesson of not frustrating God's government with His grace—1 Pet. 5:6:
 - 1. We should never think that we can annul God's system of government simply because we are under the system of His grace.
 - 2. The system of government is not for the system of grace; rather, the system of grace is here to perfect the system of government.
- B. Grace always goes along with government and supplements God's system of government:
 - 1. Because man rebelled against the system of government, the system of grace was brought in.

2. The system of grace brings us to salvation and restoration so that we will obey God's system of government.
 3. The more humble a person is, the more experienced he will be in the system of God's government—vv. 5-6.
 4. Grace never annuls government; rather, grace makes a person yield to government.
 5. Grace gives us the ability to subject ourselves to government.
 6. These two systems of God mutually perfect each other; the more we receive grace from God, the more we will know how to maintain God's government.
- C. In the new heaven and new earth, grace and government will unite to become one system—Rev. 21:2-3; 22:1-5:
1. The system of grace and the system of government will join together and become one system.
 2. Both systems will be united in the Lord Jesus, who stands for both aspects of God's work.
 - a. On the one hand, He works on the basis of the system of grace.
 - b. On the other hand, He works on the basis of the system of government.