

## “THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER”

Bryan Matthew Dockens

By the mouth of Isaiah the prophet, God foretold the reign of His Only Begotten: *“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and **the government will be upon His shoulder**. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of Jehovah of hosts will perform this”* (Isaiah 9:6-7). This prophecy of Christ’s rule ascribes to Him many names and roles. With emphasis on His governance, consider what else He is called.

**He is Captain and Prince.** *“For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make **the captain of their salvation** perfect through sufferings”* (Hebrews 2:10). In English, captaincy connotes either military rank or command of a vessel. The Greek from which it is translated is less specific, simply meaning a chief leader. Thus, the same Greek word is used to describe Jesus as the *“Prince of life”* (Acts 3:15) and *“Prince and Savior”* (5:31). It is also used to name Him *“the **author and finisher of our faith**”* (Hebrews 12:2).

**He is Lord.** *“He is Lord of lords”* (Revelation 17:14; 19:16). This is translated from a word which denotes supremacy. Thus, His Lordship over all who are called lords means He is absolutely supreme. That makes Him *“Lord of all”* (Acts 10:36), *“Lord of both the dead and the living”* (Romans 14:9), *“Lord of glory”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2:8), and *“Lord of peace”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Thessalonians 3:16).

**He is King.** *“He is King of kings”* (Revelation 17:14; 19:16). The Greek behind this word indicates sovereignty, meaning He is *“ruler over the kings of the earth”* (Revelation 1:5). He sits a throne in heaven (Hebrews 8:1; 12:2). He wears a golden crown (Revelation 14:4; Hebrews 2:9). He wields a righteous scepter (Hebrews 1:8; cf. Genesis 49:10). Even others who have been granted thrones and crowns abandon them to glorify Him! *“Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads... the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ‘You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and*

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## BAD AND GOOD SHEPHERDS

Robert Perkins, adapted

**God** chastised the leaders of His nation Israel (Ezekiel 34) by comparing them to bad shepherds. Look at their actions and inactions.

They neglected to: 1) Strengthen the weak, 2) Heal the sick, 3) Treat the injured, 3) Bring back the strays, and 4) Search for the lost.

Instead, they: 1) Ate curds, 2) Clothed themselves with wool, 3) Ate the choice animals, and 4) Ruled harshly and brutally.

As a result, the flock was scattered and ravaged by wolves. God promised to punish the leaders of Israel and take care of the flock personally. He also promised to provide a true shepherd after the lineage of King David who was and is Jesus Christ.

Jesus is still the Chief Shepherd of His people, but has ordained minor shepherds over each local flock of Christians. God expects these human shepherds to strengthen the weak, heal the sick, treat the injured, bring back the strays, search for the lost, and rule gently and with kindness.

God loves and highly values His flock of people and expects the same from His shepherds.

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*honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created”* (Revelation 4:4, 10-11).

**He is Preeminent.** *“In all things He may have the **preeminence**. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell”* (Colossians 1:15-19). Definitively, He occupies first place in everything. Considering His Godhood (15), His Creative power (15-17), His headship over the church (18), and His resurrective authority (18), He is God’s fullness and that makes Him preeminent. Therefore, He is right to claim, *“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth”* (Matthew 28:18). He is seated *“far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come”* (Ephesians 1:21).

In view of all that Christ is and the power He possesses, it is only right to submit. *“At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* (Philippians 2:10-11).

**"WHAT MUST I DO  
TO BE SAVED?"**

**ACTS 16:30**

**LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

**BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

**CONFESS CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

**BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF  
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

**HEBREWS 10:24-25**

**SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard  
Belén, New Mexico

**Seekers Welcome.  
Members Expected.**

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN  
ANY TRESPASS...  
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

**GALATIANS 6:1**

**CONFESS TRESPASSES**

James 5:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 8:22

**PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS**

Acts 8:22

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS  
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN  
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

**PROVERBS 25:11**

"If we find ourselves with a desire that nothing in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that we were made for another world."

— C. S. Lewis

**"WHOLE COUNSEL"**

**ACTS 20:27**

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**HELP ME GET ONE MORE**

**Bryan Matthew Dockens**

The 2016 film Hacksaw Ridge is a dramatic retelling of how a conscientious objector named Desmond Doss came to be awarded the Medal of Honor. Private Doss refused to carry a rifle into battle, but enlisted during World War II to be a combat medic. During the Battle of Okinawa, at great risk to himself, PFC Doss lowered 75 injured American soldiers, one by one, over a 400-foot escarpment to safety below. Throughout the ordeal, he kept praying, "Please Lord, help me get one more. Help me get one more." Focused on one casualty at a time, not the lot of them all at once, the hero was able to rescue his wounded comrades.

The purpose of the church is to bring the message of salvation in Christ Jesus to every sinner the world over. It would be a thrill to see 3,000 souls in a day washed of their sins, as happened that first Pentecost following the Lord's ascension (Acts 2:41). For that matter, it would be quite satisfying to witness a whole household receive their sins' forgiveness (Acts 11:14; 16:15, 33; 18:8; 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:16). If either is to happen, God will be glorified, angels will rejoice, and Christians will be edified. Yet, until then, let every disciple pray, "Please Lord, help me get one more. Help me get one more." Solo conversions are also important (Acts 8:38; 9:18).

Each lost soul is worthy of the individual attention and effort needed to save them. There is honor in that.

**RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST**

505-864-0282

rgvcoc@gmail.com

Box 989, Belén, NM 87002

www.RGVChurchOfChrist.org

75 Sherrod Boulevard

Facebook.com/RGVChurchOfChrist