



August 19, 2007

All Hail to the King

His last name was Scott. His initials were E.P. Beyond that we don't know much more about the man other than he was a Baptist missionary who is listed in the 1900 Baptist missionaries manual, who served in India. Oh yeah and then there's this little story about his first day on the job. Brother Scott set out to visit a remote mountain tribe, which had never heard the name of Christ. As he neared their land he was suddenly surrounded by a savage band of warriors all pointing spears straight at his heart. E.P. felt that death was imminent and he only could think of one thing to do he pulled out his violin, closed his eyes and began playing and singing in the warriors' native language. He sang what was known as "the national anthem of Christendom". When he got to the verse which says, "let every tribe and every tongue on this terrestrial ball to him all majesty ascribe and crown him lord of all." He heard some sounds around him. As he opened his eyes he was amazed to see that the warriors had all lowered their weapons and many had tears in their eyes. Brother Scott spent the rest of his life ministering to those people to that tribe that tongue on this terrestrial ball.

We know the hymn as "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name", which was written by Edward Perronet. An Englishman whose family had to twice move because of religious persecution. He became a pastor and spent several years traveling with John and Charles Wesley, the founders of the Methodist church. Now at that time the Methodists were under tremendous persecution from the church in England. John Wesley wrote in his diary, "Edward Perronet was thrown down and rolled in mud and mire. Stones were hurled and windows broken." That's pretty bad but can you imagine what it was like to be a pastor serving with one of the greatest and most gifted preachers of all time? Edward felt uneasy about preaching when John Wesley was around. He just knew he couldn't deliver the Gospel as well as him. John Wesley constantly encouraged him to preach but Edward just wouldn't do it until one day John stood up and said, "Brother Perronet will now speak." Thinking quickly Perronet stood before the crowd and said, "I will now deliver the greatest sermon ever preached on earth. I'm sure that got everyone's attention including John Wesley's. He then opened the Bible to Matthew 5 and read the Sermon on the Mount and then he

sat down. Now while we may laugh at that it all gives us a keen insight to the thoughts of Edward Perronet. To him there was nothing greater than Jesus.

As Adam day so eloquently spoke last week in our sermon about the need to have passion for Christ Edward Perronet exemplified this in all that he did. He knew that only Jesus could give the greatest sermon, he knew that he couldn't do better than Jesus so I would imagine that he knew full well what was meant when Jesus said, "All". Think about that word all. All means all there's nothing missing, it's totally complete, nothing is lacking. Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." Jesus has authority over everything spiritual and physical. There is nothing he doesn't have authority over and his ministry testified to this. His miracles, he had authority over weather, he calmed the sea. He authority over sickness he healed people. He had authority over the laws of nature he walked on water. He had authority over the spiritual realm the demons begged him not to throw them into the abyss. He had authority over death, which he showed not only with his raising of individuals from the dead but raising himself from the dead.

Since Jesus has all authority what should our response to him be? Philippians 2:10&11 tells us very clearly, "At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that he is Lord to the glory of God." We should have such respect for his name that at the mention of it we bow in humble adoration. But yet as we bow we praise His name and we glorify God for the greatest gift ever given the gift of His son. In fact there's a little test that I learned this past week. A test that can be administered to see if we truly hold the name of Jesus at that level.

The test begins with a very simple question and doesn't seem to really apply but trust me this question really does open it all up for us. That first question, "How would you describe heaven?" Think about what you would say. Now understand that not only is that the first question its also the last question that's the whole test. Did you describe heaven as a mansion? Did you describe heaven as the earth restored and renewed to perfection? Did you describe it as being reunited with family? Or did you give the truly biblical answer heaven is to be with Christ. This is how Jesus describes it. To the thief on the cross he said, "Today you will be with me in paradise." He didn't say, "You will be in paradise oh by the way with me." The most important thing is today you will be with me oh by the way it will be in paradise. This is what He prayed or in his high priestly prayer. He prayed to his Father that they may be where I am. This is what he claimed he was going to do. He said, " I go to prepare a place for you that you may be where I am."

Paul understood this that's why he said, "My desire is to be with Christ." This is exactly what Perronet felt. I think when he thought of Jesus he envisioned Jesus as a king much like in Revelations chapter 19 riding on a great white horse as people see him coming they cheer but when he actually gets right there next to them they bow, they bow in his presence, and they say, "My God, my Lord and my God", and as he continues and rises to His throne he stands up

everyone falls before Him just as John did when he saw Jesus in Revelations 1:17 when he saw Jesus in heaven. But everyone rise and they all cry out together, "All hail to the King, all hail to the power of Jesus name." It stops the native warrior in India it is the key to resurrection it is our sure and certain hope all hail to the King and may we crown Him Lord of all."

In our Savior's name, Amen.