

## AM I IN THE PLACE OF GOD?

Text: Gen. 50:15-21

INTRO: Joseph realized that it is God's responsibility to execute vengeance. A lot of Christians need to learn this.

Rom 12:19, Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 2

Many individuals need to consider the question of Joseph & its obvious answer: Am I in the place of God?

I. IT IS NOT MAN'S PLACE TO WRITE CREED BOOKS OR FORMULATE DOCTRINES. 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:3; Acts 20:20, 28; Rev. 22:18-19.

II. AM I IN THE PLACE OF GOD TO VOTE PEOPLE INTO THE CHURCH?

A. It is man's business to teach & baptize, MT 28:18-20.

B. It is the Lord's business to add the obedient to his church, Acts 2:41, 47.

III. IT IS NOT MAN'S PLACE TO WEAR RELIGIOUS TITLES OF DISTINCTION. "Father, Reverend, Most Worshipful Master."

Matt 23:8-10, But you, do not be called 'Rabbi'; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, & you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth your father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ.

Ps 111:9, He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name. (KJV)

IV. IT IS NOT MAN'S PLACE TO SET A DATE FOR CHRIST'S RETURN.

- A. Many have tried. Wm Miller, Chas T Russell, etc.
- B. All have failed. MT 24:36; 25:13.

V. NO MAN IS IN THE PLACE OF GOD TO CHANGE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF ELDERS (BISHOPS).

1 Tim 3:2-5, A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);

NOTE: The terms “bishop,” “elder,” and “pastor” are used interchangeably in the N.T. Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Pet. 5:1-2; Titus 1:5-6.

VI. WE ARE NOT IN THE PLACE OF GOD TO DECIDE THE DESTINY OF THE DEAD.

- A. Gospel preachers are often accused of judging the dead by preaching the gospel plan of salvation. This is NOT judging the dead who failed to obey. IT IS SIMPLY pointing out to the living what God has commanded of them
- B. To teach anything less is to JUDGE God’s word—to judge it null & void. This is something no true preacher of the gospel can afford to do.

James 4:11, Do not speak evil of one another, brethren. He who speaks evil of a brother and judges his brother, speaks evil of the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge.

CONCLUSION: I am no more in the place of God than was Joseph. You are no more in the place of God than he. God has done His part. It is our responsibility to be obedient to His will.

Jonestown, TX, January 11, 1970  
Springhill, LA, July 22, 1973  
KBSF Radio, Springhill, LA, October 20, 1974  
La Porte, TX, January 30, 1983  
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 17, 2004