

CHAP. 10: THE POWERS OF THE AGE TO COME

1. CONTENT

- a. Christians exist in what has been called the "already/not yet" tension. On the one hand, the fulness of Christ's power and rule is yet future ("not yet"). But on the other hand, the NT speaks of Christians having a real, though partial foretaste of that future dominion now ("already").
- b. The original purpose of man was to establish God's dominion over the whole earth (Gen. 1:28) by filling the earth, benevolently ruling nature, and subduing God's enemy. Though man's fall gave Satan legal authority over earth and man (and necessitated the plan of redemption), God has never deviated from His original plan for man (Ps. 8). God has accomplished both the redemption and recovery of man through Jesus Christ and His death on the cross (Heb. 2:5-14).
- c. Though it will not be fully completed until Christ's return, the purpose of the church now is to both offer redemption for man and to reestablish God's dominion over earth. Christ's death procured the basis for both, His Body is to expand both in this age (Matt. 28:18-20), and His return will establish both in the age to come.

2. APPLICATION

- a. It is against this backdrop that we understand the true nature of our spiritual warfare with Satan. He resists us not only because we offer man redemption from his dominion; he resists us also because we are removing his dominion altogether and reestablishing God's dominion over the earth. Nee suggests that it is especially the latter that he hates.
- b. Nee also suggests that evangelism is easier than spiritual warfare for this reason. People can be won to Christ by merely offering them salvation, no matter how carnal the witnesser (Phil. 1:15-18), but Satan can be moved only by firmly wielding Christ's authority. Nee says that this requires utter allegiance to Christ so that Satan cannot find any ground of compromise in us. This evidently gives him the "right" to ignore us. Some passages suggest this is the case (Lk. 22:31,32; Acts 19:15; Mk. 9:29; Eph. 4:27).