

# Things People Try To Take Away From Christ

Gary McDade

The Bible reveals that all things have been given to Christ from the Father. Jesus said, “All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him” (Matthew 11:27). Again Jesus said, “The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand” (John 3:35). Jesus acknowledged the possession of “all things” the Father gave Him in John 16:15, “All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.” Let’s now look at just five “things people try to take away from Christ.”

## His Prayer for Unity

Where you have hundreds and hundreds of different churches you have serious division. Jesus prayed for unity among all believers. In John 17:20-23 He said, “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.” From Him whom God has given all things, people try to take away the unity for which He prayed by languishing in religious division.

## His Kingdom Being His Church

Although Jesus Himself said, “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:18-19), many people try to take His kingdom away from being the church. A case in point is the past President of the Dallas Theological Seminary. He wrote,

The kingdom predictions of the Old Testament do not conform to the pattern of this present age. ...the present age is a parenthesis or a time period not predicted by the Old Testament and therefore not fulfilling or advancing the program of events revealed in the Old Testament foreview. (John F. Walvoord, *The Millennial Kingdom*, pp. 230-231).

The conclusion of this elevated language is that the church as the kingdom of Christ was never mentioned in the Old Testament, and the church is a “parenthesis” disconnected from the age that preceded it. Such a false view of the Bible makes you wonder why the apostle Paul spent “two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him” when he was under house arrest awaiting trial in Rome (Acts 28:30-31). From Him whom God has given all things, people try to take away His church from being His kingdom.

## His Linking of Belief and Baptism to Salvation

Jesus solidly affirmed, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16). Yet, the renowned Baptist scholar A.T. Robertson writes after this verse (and I’ve heard many of his brethren parrot his view), “The omission of *baptized* with ‘disbelieveth’ would seem to show that Jesus does not make baptism essential to salvation” (*Word Pictures in the New Testament*, vol. 1, p. 405). From Him whom God has given all things, people try to take away His linking of belief and baptism to salvation.

### **His Current Reign at God’s Right Hand**

Although Jesus Himself said, “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne” (Revelation 3:21), many people try to take away His current reign at God’s right hand. C.I. Scofield wrote, “This passage...is conclusive that Christ is not now seated upon His own throne. The Davidic Covenant, and the promises of God through the prophets and the Angel Gabriel concerning the Messianic kingdom await fulfilment [*sic*]” (*The Scofield Reference Bible*, p. 1334). From Him whom God has given all things, people try to take away His current reign at God’s right hand.

### **His Church’s Name**

Inspiration assures the name by which all the congregations of the Lord’s church were referenced is “the churches of Christ” (Romans 16:16). A plethora of churches abound, all claiming to follow the Bible, but they have taken away from Christ the name of His church and replaced it with one of their own choosing. From Him whom God has given all things, people try to take away the name of His church.

### **Conclusion**

We would not idly sit by and allow a fragile widow have her purse snatched from her grasp; we even get our ire up when one child forcedly takes away a cookie out of the hand of his playmate. It is right for us to “reprove, rebuke, and exhort” people who try to take away from Christ sacred things God the Father gave to Him (2 Timothy 4:2).