



The Kingdom of God is Near!

By Dan Beaty

Exciting News for the 21st Century!

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Living TRUTH Publications

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Columbus, Ohio U.S.A.

First Printing, April 2002

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Author's Preface:

Often certain common phrases which Christians use eventually come to take on different meanings to different people. This is normal and understandable, as we all think and speak from the filtering of our various perspectives and experiences. The time eventually does come, however, for us to re-examine certain important issues in the light of what God has actually said and is saying in this present hour.

What you are about to read is an effort to encourage you in the process of hearing what God is saying to you and to this generation concerning that which Jesus declared to be our number one priority in this life: *Seeking first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness.*

It has been suggested that my previous newsletters and radio broadcasts on this theme be compiled into the booklet form which you now hold in your hands. We pray that the resulting work will be instrumental in inspiring you to abandon every chain of life that weighs you down as together we commit to seeking first the glorious Kingdom of our God!

May His sweet presence be with us as together we explore the eternal wonders found in His marvelous Word.

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Chapter One:

The Nearness of the Kingdom

Nearly 2000 years ago an announcement was made by the last of the Old Testament prophets. His name was John the Baptist. He was sent from God to prepare the way for the Messiah, commanding Israel to repent and make ready for a new form of government in the earth. Today however, many are completely satisfied to view the coming of the kingdom of God as a future event only, even though both Jesus and John declared it to be at hand in their day!

A question remains to be answered. What happened with the fulfillment of these prophecies from Jesus and John? Were they postponed to a later date, or did we miss something? It was obvious that the apostles were still anticipating something substantial. In the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, they asked the risen Jesus, *"Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"* He answered them by saying, *"It is not for you to know the times and the seasons, which the Father has put in His power, but you shall receive power, after the Holy Spirit is come upon you, and you shall be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem, Judea, even unto the uttermost parts of the earth!"*

Notice that He did not correct their expectation of the physical aspects in the Kingdom and the visible expression of the rule of God. He merely pointed them to the immediate action He had purposed in them. Have you ever noticed how the Spirit of the Lord often releases information to us only on a "need to know" basis? Before this time, Jesus had taken special pains to implant into His disciples the more important principles that would later result in the operation of His Kingdom in them. Then, when the time was right, He filled them with the greatest and most powerful resource that had ever been given to man -- His own resurrection life!

They became witnesses unto Him! That is, they expressed in a very convincing manner the fact of His life, His teachings, His Lordship and, most controversial of all, His death and resurrection! All of this was only possible by the power of the Holy Spirit within them, which kept His memory alive in their hearts. More than that, the reality of His Presence continued in their lives on a daily basis as they became living demonstrations of His Kingdom. Then by His Word they were able to break the chains of sin, sickness and death from the people around them!

Today, there is a longing in many to walk in that living reality of His presence, as did the early disciples. As they hunger and thirst after His righteousness, they have the promise from Jesus that they will be filled. As it was with the early disciples, these are being taken through a process to ensure His purpose will be produced in them. The power connected with this relationship is a great responsibility, and this process or baptism prepares them for it.

THE KINGDOM WITHIN

Earlier in the Gospel according to Luke, Jesus was demanded of the Pharisees when the Kingdom of God should come. He answered sort of vaguely by saying, *"the Kingdom of God comes not with observation, neither shall they say, 'Lo here,' or 'Lo there,' for behold, the Kingdom of God is **within you!**"* (Luke 17:20-21) Some scholars found it difficult to believe that the kingdom of God could be within those religious men, so they dug into the Greek and found that "within" here means, "in the midst." Even so, we know from other scriptures that there is an inner nature to the kingdom of God, which is *"righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost."* (Romans 14:17)

Before I go any further into this, I would like to let you know where I am going. The holy writings of both the Old Testament and New, are very clear on this. The rule of God is coming to this earth. That rule begins with repentance or the changing of our minds. What follows is the filling of our hearts with His Love, His Nature, His Will, His Power and purpose. All of this happens within us, but must eventually find expression in the visible world.

A gross error has prevailed in Christendom for centuries. This concept has kept the Kingdom of God as either a mysterious, life-after-death, dimension, or sometimes a temporary spiritual high that certain mystics have found. Others expect to see it only in the distant future, but I declare unto you that God's Kingdom is coming now, and His will shall be done **in the earth**, as it is in heaven! This planet was created to glorify God, and Jesus began the changing process 2000 years ago. It is time for this generation to repent, and to prepare our hearts for what our sovereign Lord desires to do. Then we can also become witnesses unto Him to our time!

The kingdom of God is not a mind-trip where we can escape the cares of this life, even though He does lift us up above our troubles. More accurately, the Kingdom of God is that dimension where God rules in our lives from His heavenly sphere. He has lifted us up into the

heavenlies, to be sure, but for what purpose? His purpose has never been to simply make us feel good. He has a grand design for His Creation, and He desires to implement that design through those who know of a higher life. That higher life is for everyone, and He is raising up in this hour some mighty witnesses to this truth!

First of all, righteousness, peace and joy must prevail in us. This may sound negative and shocking to some of you, but all too often we have become comfortable with the reality of unrighteousness, strife, and gloom within our lives and the lives of others. My point is not one of guilt and condemnation. It is merely the voice of His Truth, coming to liberate us from all bondage! His Word is powerful and alive within us, to challenge and consume our failures -- for His Glory!

When the righteousness of God prevails in the lives of individuals, they become standards that expose the injustice in the world around them. They become beacons of His Light! Instead of condemning others who still walk in darkness, they reveal humanity as God intended. Does this challenge frighten you? It should, but in a positive way. It should make us aware of our desperate need to know and experience Christ in reality. It should remove our religious coverings from us that we might trust in His righteousness alone.

How often have we been reluctant to face the starvation, the abuse, the racial strife, the crime that is filling our land, simply because we felt helpless to do anything about it? We could all retreat to our comfortable pews and soothing gospel music, to drown out the cries of the hurting people out there. Or rather, we could repent for our lack of courage and faith in the Almighty God, Who gave us the Good News of His Kingdom! He is our source! He is our message! He is our mission! He will empower us as we commit to the destiny He has planned for each one of us! Jesus taught us to love those who abuse us, but not to tolerate the abuse of others. While economic, religious, and social injustice prevails all around, the church world has become pre-occupied with itself. Comforts and security are within reach, and we reason that they should be pursued, for us and our families. Even though these may be worthwhile, they often run counter with the call of discipleship. Moreover, they are very fleeting goals.

Those who know Him have forsaken their plans for a much more substantial form of security. The promise of his abiding presence guarantees both an inner and an external security. You and I have the power within us to change ourselves and the world around us. That power is the Word of God and the person of Christ. We must allow it to

consume us and our selfish desires. When we are ready, the time for the Kingdom of God to appear to our generation will begin. That time is now. His Kingdom is at hand. It is not a passive, coping with evil and oppression. This may need be for a time according to the Father's will. But ultimately the Conquering One must present Himself through us in daily struggles against sin, disease, and the oppression of the helpless.

The peace and joy of the Lord are available in abundance to those who hear and obey His Voice. Their hearts have become free from fear, for they are on His side -- the winning side. They have submitted to His correction in a day when confrontation and correction are greatly discouraged and even resisted. But His correction brings the peaceable fruit of righteousness. Hallelujah! The joy of the Lord also abides in those who envision His Kingdom becoming established in this earth. Their privilege is to participate with their Lord in His expanding reign!

The King is coming! All hail King Jesus! His Kingdom is at hand, and He is about to appear in a mighty demonstration of His power to our generation! Where will He find you my friend? Will you be hiding off in some remote corner, dreading the possible loss of your personal security? Or will you be found obedient to His command, occupied in your Father's business? Let us carry His message to our generation, preparing the Way of the Lord, with a lifestyle that thrills in glorifying Him and His righteous truth! Then we too will experience the power of His gospel to transform us all!

Finally, let us consider the exhortation of Paul to the Philippians, concerning the reign of God within:

“Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life--in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. ”

(Philippians 2:12-16 NIV)

Chapter Two:

Kingdom Life

Upon examining the state of Christianity in general, we find that believers often fail to experience the full and abundant life that Christ came to give. This condition in turn reflects falsely to the unbelieving world, failing to give an accurate witness to the resurrected Christ in the earth.

Another observation is the lack of Kingdom consciousness among believers. In view of the fact that Jesus gave the last 3 1/2 years of His life as a man on earth to the **Good News** of the **Kingdom of God**, one wonders why His followers have such a lack of interest in it. If His desire and joy is our strength, should not His pleasure and purpose become ours as well? Should not our zeal and energies be directed to discovering and finding delight in His plan?

It is possible that a renewed interest in the wonderful Good News of God's reign in the earth could cure many of the ills of Christianity, and recover the full witness to the life of Christ among men. And as the Church recovers Her testimony in the earth, She will also become prepared for Her perfect union with Her husband, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

This, in part, is the focus of this ministry. The Heart of God cries out for it, and humanity groans to see it. All of Creation anticipates the glorious liberty of the children of God! Do you want to see revival in the land, and souls won to Jesus? Well then give yourself in loving service unto Him, and to discovering **His Will** and His **Kingdom Life** for you today!

In order to establish a prophetic foundation for this series of teachings, we must turn to a well-known passage in the Book of Daniel, chapter 2, verses 31 through 45. It is the famous story of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, and the interpretation given by God to Daniel:

"You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue--an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.

*"While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a **huge mountain and filled the whole earth.***

"This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king:

"You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

"After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron--for iron breaks and smashes everything--and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others.

"Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay."

Today it is commonly understood that these four kingdoms are **Babylon** -- the head of gold. **Medio-Persia** -- the chest and arms of silver. **Alexander the Great's** Grecian rule was seen in the belly and thighs of bronze, and the **Roman Empire** was represented by the legs of iron with feet of iron and clay. It was during this time in history that Christ came on the scene.

*"In the time of those kings, the God **of heaven** will set up a **kingdom** that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will **crush all those kingdoms** and bring them to an end, but **it will itself endure forever.***

"This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands--a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy."

By the illumination of the Holy Spirit of God we can begin to see both the power and simplicity of God's wise and wonderful plan! In the fullness of time, that is the time of the Roman Caesars, Christ came. He was cut out of a mountain, God's own dominion and authority, but not with human hands! Conceived by the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin Mary, He grew unto manhood, and so became the most dangerous man of all history!

He was only dangerous to the thrones of men, and the forces of darkness, but little did they know the manner in which their powers would be ultimately destroyed!

His unshakable love, uncompromising truth, and unyielding determination to fulfill His destiny would forever alter the course of human history! His very existence was unto the pleasure of His Father's Heart!

Who could stop a truth, a message of freedom for all, that was authored and commissioned by the great Creator of the universe Himself! Who could extinguish the spark that He ignited in the heart of every person with whom He came in contact? *You **can** know God! You **can** be free!* You **can** experience love, forgiveness, grace, and live in the hope that justice will ultimately prevail!

But would He call down armies from heaven or rally earthly troops to break the power of Rome! No! The power of Rome and the tyranny of it's iron rule was broken by an inner transformation in the heart of every soul that entered into and came under the reign of a Holy, and Just God!

The God of Heaven set up His Kingdom in the hearts of the weak, the helpless, and the lost! When Jesus said, *"The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand,"* He meant it! When He said *"the Kingdom of God is Within you,"* He shook their traditions and brought to them the reality of His righteousness, peace and joy as a **present day** experience!

The Living Word of God Himself became a meek and lowly man Who could be tortured, and murdered, and supposedly defeated. But even His death would further God's righteous reign! By it He proved the

eternal essence of His message and the immortality of His person! By His resurrection all of humanity would be liberated from the slavery of Satan's rule of death and fear!

When He taught us to pray, *"Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, **THY KINGDOM COME**, Thy will be done **IN EARTH**, as it is in heaven,"* did we realize our part in this ongoing world-wide revolution? Did we realize that the wonderful inner peace of His Kingdom would be accompanied by outer struggles and conflicts that are beyond our human imaginations? Have we caught the vision of His glory, which even now outweighs the immense cost of our participation with Him in His Kingdom?

Consider these ordinary men that Jesus called into His circle of intimate fellowship. None of them were found to be shining examples of courage and fortitude, UNTIL the work that He accomplished within them! By His example, His Word, His Cross and resurrection, and finally the indwelling of ***His living presence within them*** at Pentecost, they found true liberty and the strength to duplicate and reproduce His life, furthering the revelation of His Kingdom reign in the earth! Every deed and sacrifice was motivated by His Eternal Love that was abiding deep within their breasts! Who can defeat a Kingdom such as this?

The first to realize the threat of His Kingdom message were the religious rulers of that day. It wasn't until many years later that Rome began to feel the Rock chipping away at its feet of iron and clay. But Jesus and the early saints kept patience. They continued to love and give, and care and share. They knew and understood the power of His Kingdom, the revelation of the rule of God from the heavens! They were already living the heavenly life!

They knew and experienced both the power and grace of the Light, the Love, the Truth of God's great compassion for all! They also knew that humanity could not resist it forever!

In a few centuries, the Roman Empire ceased to exist, and no other power has succeeded in uniting all nations under one head. This great nation, the United States of America itself, only exists by the grace of God and the prayers of its believing citizens. But the time has come for all of us to swear our greater allegiance to Christ and His Kingdom, lest we also fall in the judgments of God on America. Indeed many have already fallen. Fallen in materialism, lust for pleasure and personal security, bringing only shame on themselves and their Lord.

May the Lord convict us and restore His Church to Her former glory, when She was actually hated of all nations for the dangerous threat she, in her weakness, devotion to Jesus and family love, posed to them!

The truth of the Good News of the Kingdom of God is very deep yet very simple. It is as simple as the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," but it goes as deep as the sin hidden in the heart of every person.

It strikes at our pride and self-centeredness, and lifts us up unto the most noble of all conditions. We are both free and committed, as He binds us together and to Him in cords of His Divine Love.

Do you want to be part of a revolution of goodness, grace, peace and joy? Do you want to turn against the tide of gloom and destruction that surrounds you? Well then simply ask the **King of Glory** to come **into your heart**, to begin His reign **in you** and **through you!** He will set you free to know Him, live in Him and pour out His goodness to all who are around you. You can then begin to see how the *"Kingdoms of this world are becoming the kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ, and He will reign forever!"* (Revelation 11:15)

Heavenly Father,

*We rejoice in YOUR joy, rest in Your Peace, and trust in Your righteousness. As we yield to your love and grace and its' working in our lives, help us to **fix our eyes on Jesus**, the author and finisher of our faith and the champion of our salvation. Establish your kingdom reign within us all, and may we continue to look for the increase of your rule in this earth.*

In the Name of Jesus our Lovely Saviour and Lord,

Amen

Chapter Three:

The Growth of the Kingdom

In the last chapter we focused on the revolutionary aspects of Jesus and His message -- the *Gospel of the Kingdom*. It is my conviction that Satan has successfully distracted many by promising to satisfy our desires for ease, comfort and predictability. He has fooled many of us into believing that God is pleased with our efforts to create wonderful plans and programs and religious activities that give us a false sense of security.

He knows that when we all truly find our ultimate peace, security and sense of belonging in the awesome Love of God, and in the embrace of His loving family, a radical, irreversible change in our every thought, feeling and action will take place!

THIS is Kingdom activity! It begins in the deep, hidden recesses of our hearts, to cleanse and transform us from within! It lifts us up into heavenly dimensions in Christ, where God, His Kingdom, and His throne *become a reality unto us!*

Away with myths and fables and endless theological debates-- *give us Christ!*

Father, send us servants like Paul, who boldly admitted his weaknesses, while continually acknowledging the all-sufficiency of our Lord Jesus Christ!

2 Corinthians 4:3-6: *"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."*

*"For we preach not ourselves, but **Christ Jesus the Lord**; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."*

Lord give us preachers who are not afraid to proclaim the revelation of Jesus Christ and **His** Gospel! God is shining into your hearts TODAY! You are beginning to see The face of Jesus Christ our Lord -- TODAY!

Herein is the beginning of a radical revolution! It begins as we surrender our lives to the power of His Word and the security of His Love! It then frees us from forms, traditions, religious thinking, and the condemnation that our best will never be good enough!

My brother, my sister in Christ, *you are accepted in the Beloved! You belong to Jesus!* Now you must arise and *walk in the reality of His Love!* The perfect Love of God can cast out your fears! The fear of failure. The fear of rejection. Even the fear of death!

Receive His Love today! This is the *Good News* of the wonderful, righteous *reign of God!* He is putting His enemies -- your doubts, fears, disillusionments, your pain, despair and bitterness -- under His feet! He is liberating your captive soul! Praise the Name of the Lord!

This brings us to another important Kingdom principle -- Kingdom growth and expansion. The pleasure of our God is to increase the intensity of His righteousness, peace and joy in this earth, and the level of freedom that His Creation experiences in Him. He does this in two basic directions.

The first is on the personal level. The second is on the corporate or universal level. In other words, He expands His work in the earth as we individually grow unto spiritual maturity, and also as others are brought into His Kingdom by the hearing of the Good News!

How beautiful is the running of those who run with the Good News of the Grace of our God! How wonderful is the message -- *our God reigns!*

This is where many of us can easily get out of balance. We either focus only on internal growth or only external growth. Regardless of your area of ministry, whether in the local church, or out on the mission field, we must always be mindful of both.

When any believer becomes focussed entirely on his or her own personal concerns, or even preoccupied with his own circle of Christian fellowship, death begins to set in. We then begin to lose our Kingdom vision, or at least an important element of it. This is crucial. Likewise we can forget about the details of our personal walk with God and spending time with the brothers and sisters while pursuing the grand vision of winning the world to Him.

The cure for these extremes is Christ-centered-ness, and Kingdom consciousness. Yes, God bought your salvation with the blood of Jesus Christ, but He was also *IN CHRIST*, reconciling *THE WORLD* unto

Himself! How can we possibly grow in the grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ, while ignoring His very Heart?

I challenge you all today to rediscover your vision of His unfailing Love! Remember when you readily believed that all things were possible in God? Do you remember when your prayers were bold and audacious, for you understood the great potential of confident trust in His desire to bless His Creation?

Have the difficulties of Kingdom living foreshadowed your view of His eternal purpose? Have the testings of your faith left you weak and weary, or the disciplines of your Heavenly Father discouraged you? Remember the admonition to despise not the discipline of the Lord, nor to faint when you are corrected by Him, for whom the Lord loves, He disciplines. But if you are without discipline, you are bastards, not sons. (Hebrews 12:5-8)

Today is a day to be healed and encouraged! The Father has been preparing you for His good work! Simply submit to His processing and the power of His wonderful Love! You are the apple of His eye! He cares for you so much more than you could ever imagine! And for this reason He is shaking both you and me from our self-centeredness! He knows how this inhibits our full experience of His abundant Life!

How can we be delivered from our self absorption? Know this first: You will never deliver yourself from anything. Our world is being presently filled with self-help books, tapes and programs that may be of some use. But here we are talking about Kingdom Living -- not band aids! We are being immersed into the grace, the love, the power, and the *fire of the Holy Spirit if God!*

Jesus Christ is your Saviour, your baptizer in the Holy Spirit and your Lord! Receive all of Him! Receive His forgiveness and grace, and also receive the fullness of His Life into your being! He wants to manifest His Kingdom Life *in you and in this earth today!*

Kingdom growth is a dynamic reality. But sometimes we become preoccupied with the growth of OUR ministries, OUR churches, OUR plans and ambitions!

Jesus is building both **His** Church, and establishing **His** Kingdom. We do have a part to play in all of this, but we must be sure to just stay out of His way! The burden of this ministry is to see God's people released from the bondages of self, sin, sickness, religion, materialism, and our independent attitudes. Only the Good News of the Kingdom of God can accomplish this!

Too many churches are filled with self-centered, comfortable pew warmers, who have little concern for the progress of God's eternal purposes. Could it be that our message has been too watered down and too weak?

When the Church is in true revival the impact will definitely be felt in the surrounding communities. Let me tell you that the Gospel of the Kingdom of God is volatile! One who has been touched by its power will not easily continue in the modes of the past!

Jesus Christ is a man of consuming love and compassion for all! His seeking and saving of the lost knows no boundaries! If 99% of all men, women and children were to become saved, He would not be satisfied! He would leave the security of the fold to find the very last one!

This is the Heart of His Kingdom! Wherever His nature, His character, His holiness, His gentleness, goodness, meekness, faith, temperance, long suffering, love, joy and peace are found -- there is the manifestation of His reign in the earth!

And not only that -- but His determination to see the fullness of His life revealed unto and in mankind is unrelenting! Jesus is the Eternal Living Word of God, and when He declared in the beginning: "Let us make man in our own image, and likeness, and let them have dominion over all the earth," all of the forces of the universe began moving towards this end!

How many of us have been drained of energy for this "Christian" Life? How many of us have become discouraged, as if in a losing battle? Well be of good cheer, you are ready to participate in the Battle of the Lord, becoming strong in Him, and in the power of HIS MIGHT! You can now begin to rest in Him, and take His Yoke upon you! Learn of Him! Then all of your striving can be according to *His Working*, which works in you mightily!

Simply give yourself to Him, allowing His Grace to impart unto you the very *energy of God* towards accomplishing His Eternal Purpose in you. In so doing you will naturally stir up the spiritual gifts that are already in you by virtue of His generosity.

Ministers, teachers, pastors and preachers: Listen to the Lord today. Forsake the yokes that men and religion have placed upon you. Begin today to flow only in the special abilities that have been placed in your life by His very ascension! Then you will begin to see lazy pew

warmers become active participants, equipped for service in His Kingdom!

Don't worry anymore about church attendance, and the maintenance of the building. Leave these concerns to others. Your main concern and God's concern is for the advance of His reign of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost! He wants to release you unto joyous liberty in Him as you fully give yourself to proclaiming His glorious Gospel!

Heavenly Father,

You know we have touched on some sensitive issues today. We ask today that you will by your Spirit speak to our hearts, not in the words of a mere man, but in your divine heavenly counsels. Only your eternal truth can free our minds and our lives unto your wonderful goals. May they ever be our goals as well!

In the Lovely Name of Jesus,

Amen

Chapter Four:

The Time is at Hand!

Whenever the subject of the Kingdom of God is discussed, one question will usually surface eventually. It is the question of "When?"

Over the centuries, numerous theories relating to this question have accumulated. Each one has seen some popularity, according to the mood and desires of the times. Many books are being sold every day which promise to give the reader some inside information concerning the end times and the coming of God's Kingdom. They are read by both sinner and saint alike, for these are universal concerns that arouse the curiosity and fascination of many.

The Pharisees, and even His disciples posed the question of "When?" to Jesus. But it is interesting to consider His responses in each instance. In neither case did He give them a specific time. To the Pharisees He declared the location of the Kingdom, and to the disciples, clear direction was given that would actually lead to Kingdom activity. If any allusion to time was given, it was always in the present tense. While Jesus consistently held forth the futuristic aspects of God's reign of righteousness, peace and joy in the earth, no one could dispute where His emphasis lay.

There was always an immediacy in Jesus' teaching and practice. *"The Kingdom of heaven is at hand,"* was His theme! How are we to respond to this? Does it not flush away our mythology -- and *our excuses* as well? Is not NOW the time to hear His Voice and respond in loving obedience? Will we adore Him with our lips, calling Him *"Lord, Lord,"* but fail to simply do those things which He commands?

Has our *eschatology*, that is, our beliefs concerning the last days, and *our traditions* concerning Him, made His commands to us ineffectual? Is not **today** the day to give our lives and our very souls to the fulfillment of *His will* in the earth? Cannot He take care of the final outcome of all history, while we just simply live, move, and have our being in Him? And while abiding in His presence, are there not some important actions that must necessarily follow? Just think of all the action verbs that Jesus employed! *"Go, do, shine, preach, teach, feed, love, heal, forgive!"* Could it be that these very words will take us into Kingdom reality? Could these very actions themselves bring heavenly life into this sin-cursed world?

Or would we choose a complicated system of Biblical interpretation over the simplicity of knowing, loving and serving our Lovely Lord and King? Can we not trust Him to protect us in these fearful and terrible times, as we choose to follow Him?

But what of the future? How are we to prepare for it? Is it not important for us to have detailed information concerning the end times? Should we not be warning others of the dreadful times to come? Truly these are frightening times. Children are killing children, and even normal family love is becoming difficult to find. Each event that inspires optimism is countered by signs of decline and decay. Surely, every child of God **should** look to discern the signs of the times.

But from where does our hope spring forth? Is it from our knowledge of supposed predictions? Or is it from the **Person of Jesus Christ Himself?** The Name of the Lord is a strong tower! The righteous run into it and are safe!

But some attempt to draw our confidence towards themselves or even in our own personal abilities to understand complex and questionable interpretations of Biblical prophesy. May I declare unto you today that the small of intellect, the young and even uninformed can often find the greater security -- for they can have the **Lord Jesus Christ Himself!** All can know Him! From the least unto the greatest! All can learn to hear His Voice, and respond to it! All can run into His loving arms for peace and true security!

Surely we can and will help one another to know the reality of the Saviour, and my hope is that this message and ministry is a part of just that. For knowing Him more intimately will lead to greater understanding and also greater power in Him to face the challenges of the times.

As we follow on to know the Lord -- **we shall KNOW!**

Hosea 6:3: *“Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and **he shall come** unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.”*

Jesus is coming! And He is coming unto us ***as the rain!***

Hosea 10:12: “*Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to **seek the LORD**, till **he come** and rain righteousness upon you.*”

Could I encourage us all to seek the Lord? Instead of spending all of our time worrying about the future, or sorting through all of the controversies concerning the end times, why not just seek the Face of Jesus? Learn to walk with Him, talk with Him, become a real fanatic! Fall head over heels *in Love with Him!*

Would not this be time well spent? And what will be the result? Perhaps you will rediscover the Faith that was once and for all delivered unto the saints! Perhaps you will find true righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost! *This is the Kingdom of God!* Perhaps you will become translated out of the kingdom of darkness and into His kingdom of light! Maybe you will even come to truly know Him as *Lord of all*, and begin living in the expectancy of His ever expanding Kingdom!

Then you will find yourself spontaneously doing all the things that you have already known were right. Loving the brethren. Helping the helpless. Forgiving those who hurt you, and leading others to know the Love of God for themselves!

This is the Kingdom of God! Live in it NOW! Worship Him as Lord NOW! Watch the gates of hell fall NOW!

Let us leave the course of history in the hands of our sovereign God. And let us trust Him to lead us and give us the power to obey Him today.

Yes, there is a future hope. Even the Creation itself senses it:

Rom 8:19-21: “*The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.*

“For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.”

Christ Jesus must reign until all enemies are put under His feet, the Rock cut out of the mountain is growing, and His leaven is continuing to leaven society. He has already begun His righteous reign in us, and

through our devotion and obedience, nations will come to the light and kings to the brightness of our rising!

It is time for us to rise and shine, for the glory of the Lord is risen upon us! As citizens of heaven *and* the age to come, we are becoming living examples of the Kingdom of God to our generation!

Rom 12:1-2: *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"*

Many reference books will confirm the fact that the word which is translated "world" here in the KJV, is a Greek word which refers to a period of time, or "**an age.**" We are not to conform to the thinking of this age, for *we are actually dwelling in the Kingdom age now!*

Gal 1:3-5: *"Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world (or age), according to the will of God and our Father: To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen".*

Colossians 1:12-14: *"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet (or qualified us) to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and **hath translated us** into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:"*

These and many other passages bear witness to the truth of our present dwelling place in Christ! Lord open our eyes to see you, and enlighten our minds to the revelation that you have *raised us up together*, to be seated us *in heavenly places* in you! And as we learn to experience you in our daily lives, we are also living in your heavenly Kingdom now!

Yes, there is a glorious age to come! It is the age when *the kingdoms of this world become the Kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever!* (Rev 11:15)

But you and I are to bear witness to the reality of His reign today!
His army is advancing today, and we are on the winning side!

Lord,

You are well aware of our need for patience in these troubled and doubtful days. Often it seems to us as though you are very distant, and your coming so long delayed. Grant us the courage and faith to walk in obedience to your commands, and increase our awareness of you and your imminent universal reign over this earth.

All of humanity needs to see you, but so do we. Give us a fresh vision of your glory, and a renewed visitation of the power of your Holy Spirit in our lives. Only then can we fulfill your Heart's desire for our lives.

In Jesus Name,

Amen

Chapter Five:

In these messages, we have been considering our need for a greater consciousness of the Kingdom of God. Hopefully, some of you are being challenged to enter into your own study of this important subject, which pervades both the teachings and thinking of the New Testament writers.

Today we would like to give our attention to:

The Gospel of the Kingdom

In Mat 24:14, We find these words of Jesus:

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.”

In Rom 1:16-17, Paul writes: *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”*

Many believe that a spiritual intensity is building as we move into this millennium. Forgive me for not giving speculations of coming world events here. These are not the concerns that Jesus has laid on my heart. But I do believe that many are hearing from the Lord and receiving direction concerning His will for His people in this hour!

There has always been that prophetic element of Christ's Church and She has always been His voice and witness in the earth. He will proclaim His counsels to mankind as He has always done!

This is a day to bear and proclaim His message to all! It is also a day to seek the Lord, to receive His counsel to us, both as individuals, and as His people world-wide! Let all of heaven and earth, *Hear the Word of the Lord!* And may we who are His own be already actively tuned in to what He is saying, while the voices of fools vainly attempt to drown out His earnest cry!

The people of God need a new hunger and thirst for His Creative Living Word! But how difficult it is becoming to receive their attention! Many are becoming more accustomed to hearing and understanding the wisdom of men, thus the wisdom of God appears difficult and even foolish to them!

“For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.

“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: That, according as it is written, he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

“And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

“And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

“Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God”. (1 Corinthians 1:26- 2:10)

This is a day to give an ear to hear what the **Spirit of God** is saying to the church!

Jeremiah 23:18: *“But which of them has stood in the council of the LORD to see or to hear his word? Who has listened and heard his word?”*

Jeremiah 23:22: *“But if they had stood in my council, they would have proclaimed my words to my people and would have turned them from their evil ways and from their evil deeds”.*

How often do God's people tend to be controlled by their circumstances? Why do we so frequently react in fear to the turmoil of our times, rather than in faith and trust in our Lord?

Is it because we have simply failed to hear Him? Have we so little regard for His Word, His Wisdom -- His counsel? Or perhaps we are fearful of what He might say to us? He commanded one to sacrifice his son, and another to sell all his worldly possessions for the poor. Where could we find the faith and the courage to obey such a word?

2,000 years ago there were 12 men who also possessed such fears. In fact, some did fail the first great test and ran away during Jesus' trial and execution. One of His closest associates even denied he ever knew Him while another actually betrayed Him!

But wait! This is not the end of the story. Jesus prayed a prayer for them -- and also for you and me! That prayer kept all but the one who betrayed Him in His care, until they could more clearly see His purpose and triumph in the resurrection! From this encounter with the resurrected Christ, they obtained the faith to wait in Jerusalem, where they came into perfect unity in Him. Then, when He began to fill them with power from on high -- the mighty Holy Ghost, they became fearless witnesses unto Him, who rejoiced in the very sufferings that they once greatly feared!

My brother, my sister, *you **too** can know the Resurrected Christ!* You too can be filled with *power from on high!* You too can become a witness to His glorious resurrection! Hear the Word of the Lord! Hear the good news, which is the power of God unto your salvation! Believe it!

Right now you can open up your heart and life unto Him anew! You can receive His resurrection life for the very first time, or you can begin returning to your first love in Jesus today!

Oh Praise the wonderful Name of Jesus! We rejoice today in your Lordship! We honor you, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords! Let all of creation sing and shout for joy unto your Great Name!

It is time for us to forsake the man-centered Gospel. In it everything is directed to our needs and interests. God forgives US. He saves US. He heals US. He prospers US - and all of these things are true, but when the focus begins with us, it often continues with us, and true abundant life is lost.

This is not about us! **It is about God!** He is both the center and circumference of our being! We need to become absorbed in His Heart, His desires, His purpose! It is for these that He has saved you! (2 Timothy 1:9)

If we are to become a testimony to His reign in the earth, we must experientially know His Lordship! We must not only call Him Lord, but we must also live under His wonderful and benevolent reign, dwelling in the secret place of the Most High, under the shadow of the Almighty!

What peace, safety and security! What love, joy and freedom! Today we are daily learning to trust Him, while our self trust freely melts away. We are forsaking our miserable, self-centered thinking to live and walk the *Christ-centered life*! He is the Alpha and Omega! He is the First and the Last! It is He Who was, is and is to come the Almighty! Know it! Believe it! His Spirit and Word are making this revelation real unto you today!

The Lordship of Jesus must be realized and proclaimed. *This* is the good news of the kingdom!

How big is your Jesus? Do you see Him in the fullness in which Paul, Peter, John and the others saw Him? Is He just the simple carpenter's son, or the suffering servant on the cross? Or have you also caught the vision of His resurrection power, and His ascending Lordship?

Will He only offer you forgiveness, and take you to heaven by the skin of your teeth? Or will He manifest His fullness in your life, as *Christ IN YOU* the hope of glory? Do you see His church as a weak man-made institution, or as His glorious Bride, the Heavenly Jerusalem, the Mother of us all?

It is high time for us all to catch a life-changing, all-consuming vision of Him, that will call us upward to the high call of God in Christ Jesus! It is time for us to be released from our petty arguments and disagreements, that we may join together in resounding praise unto the King of all the earth! It is time for us all to lay down our lives for one another, in expectation for what our Mighty God will do among us and through us! Can anyone say "amen" to that?

From the beginning of this book we have attempted by God's grace to challenge the reader to the higher call of God in Christ Jesus. And may we continue to do so. We believe that these are days of renewal, revival, restoration and resurrection for His Church! We also believe that God is calling us all to *return to our first love!*

All of this can and will come as we lift up the wonderful Name of Jesus, Who is the very image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature. By Him were all things made, and without Him nothing can have existence! Are you hearing the Word of the Lord? Is faith and trust in Him welling up within your soul?

If so, then know that God is working in you both to desire and to do His good pleasure! You are beginning to live the Kingdom Life!

Heavenly Father,

We know that our words are so feeble in comparison to the glory that they hope to convey. But we are thankful that Your Words are going forth in this hour! Give us hearing ears and open hearts to receive Your Truth, and fill us as well with the boldness to declare them to our generation.

In Jesus Name,

Amen

Chapter Six:

The Lordship of Jesus Christ

In this chapter we would like to discuss the single most important issue in your life and mine! Does this arouse your curiosity? Should any ordinary man make such bold statement? We would like to invite you to stay tuned, and to answer this question for yourself!

It is becoming increasingly evident that we are heading into a time of great expansion for the Kingdom of God. Pressures from every side are moving against His people, and these pressures must of necessity force us out of our comfort zones. Passivity and complacency have captivated us for much too long, and our enemy continues to thrive in this earth.

Our Great Commander and Chief is presently mobilizing His forces. The question we must ask ourselves today is, will *we* be in that number?

No effort will be made here to incite fear into your hearts, and none will be necessary. Many of you are already overcome with fear for the days that are upon us, but our only purpose is to instill hope! Our hope is found in only one place and one person. That person is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself!

The crucial question of this hour is not if you should move into the country and hoard provisions, or invest your money in the gold market. If the Spirit of the Lord directs you to do certain things, by all means obey Him! But as I listen and observe the conversations of my fellow Christians, and even my own words, I am forced to ask this haunting question: "Where do you and I stand in our relationship with Jesus Christ?"

Many of us have been walking with the Lord for years and yet finding ourselves being shaken by daily events. We then begin to look to Christian leaders in church, and on the radio and TV, and these in turn point to specialists of every field. There are Christian psychologist, and counselors, doctors and scientists, all of whom have much wisdom and insight to offer us. But there is also the great danger of our ever learning, while never coming to the full knowledge of the Truth!

But what is the Truth? The question should rather be: **Who** is the Truth? Bible believing Christians have within their grasp the one greatest resource that has ever been given to mankind, but how we fail to avail ourselves of it! We have the most awesome and marvelous

privilege of KNOWING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST intimately, but who has the time for that? There are so many important projects to be involved in and works to accomplish! There are so many **things** to possess and **pleasures** to experience! There are so many problems to solve and answers to be sought! Who has the time to SEEK THE LORD?

Brothers and sisters, the present time, and every time, will always be the proper time to seek the Lord! Are any of us so familiar, so spiritually mature that we have actually outgrown our need to maintain an intimate relationship with Him? And what are we actually talking about, but finding our pleasure in and actually giving pleasure to the most awesome being in the universe! He is our Creator and Lord! He is our friend and lover! He has redeemed us from the curse, and brought us forth from the graveyard of fallen humanity! Why should we NOT desire Him? Why should we fail to seek Him first, above all things -- *the One from Whom we draw our very breath and life?*

May the Lord Jesus Christ anoint these words today to draw us near unto Him! May we all receive a fresh revelation of His glory, which will fill us with an all-consuming desire and passion for Him!

If you are finding it difficult to love others -- seek Him. If you are reluctant to give and sacrifice for His Kingdom -- seek Him. If you lack the energy to even perform the simple and normal duties of life -- seek Him!

If you are having trouble paying your bills -- seek Him. If your children are giving you problems -- seek Him. If your marriage is in danger -- seek the Lord!

How can I suggest this course of action? Because I have found myself in each one of these situations, and have consistently proven by the Word of God that He is a rewarder of them that believe that HE IS, and who diligently SEEK HIM!

Be advised that we are not counseling anyone to seek rewards! We are exhorting one another to SEEK the Lord! In Him we find our purpose in life, as well as the means to succeed in that purpose. Any other goal or venture is vain -- absolutely worthless, and not worth the waste of your time or God's time in prayer for!

As in any relationship, our intimacy with Christ is progressive. There may be certain aspects of His Life and Nature that we have already fully experienced in our walk, but we must never settle down

right there. One of the greatest testimonies of all time is found in the life of Paul and in his letter to the Philippians:

"But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:"

"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus."

*"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, **I press toward the mark** for the prize of the high calling of **God in Christ Jesus.**" (Philippians 3:7-14).*

We would do well to adopt the attitude of the great apostle, Paul. With all the revelation he possessed, the mighty miracles he performed, and the countless souls he won to the Lord, the fire of his passion was not quenched! He knew there was even more of the Lord Jesus Christ to know! From the pain of His sufferings, to the joy of seeing His children walk in Truth! All of it was real, for Christ is ever real and alive unto us, and the challenge to live as He Lived remains ever before us!

We too must press towards the mark for the prize of the High calling of God in Christ Jesus! We too must hunger and thirst for His resurrection life above all things! Knowing that eventually every knee will bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father, our greatest desire is to know His Lordship in our lives today!

There is a freedom from fear and anxiety for one who knows the Lord. But there is a need for instruction in this area. Far too many understand Christianity as a list of do's and don'ts, or as a constant pursuit of Biblical knowledge. More of us need to understand how to correctly use the scriptures as a means for our spiritual growth. Jesus

confronted some Bible scholars of His day for knowing the scriptures, but not realizing that they spoke of Him. We have a tendency to pick and choose the Scriptures that reinforce our own ideas and beliefs, but wholesome teaching involves the whole counsel of God. No doubt Satan would love to keep our thoughts focused only on religious knowledge, rather than our relationship with the Living Christ!

Man is not to live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of the Mouth of God. As sincere babes, we are to desire the milk of the Word, which feeds our inner man. As we grow in thought and practice, the meat of the Word becomes palatable unto us. In this we obtain the strength to perform the duties of a mature son in his Father's House.

Before we close this teaching, we hope to leave you with both the desire for a deeper walk with Christ, and some direction that will aid you in your pursuit of Him. First of all, you must know that it is the Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom. This whole plan was His idea! He *gave Himself* to reconcile you *unto Him*! Therefore we must understand that He is ready and willing for you to know Him experientially. He is actively drawing you into Himself at this very moment!

He has given us the Scriptures, the Gospel, His Servants and the power of the Holy Spirit to bring us into completeness in Him! We even have an open line of communication unto Him in our prayers! Christ has torn away the veil, that we may boldly come before the throne of Grace!

All of these gifts must be received by us.

James 1:21-22: *“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and **receive with meekness** the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye **doers of the word**, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”*

There is no doubt that the Scriptures can be intimidating and challenging unto us, both mentally and spiritually. But that is not our concern. When we spend time in study and meditation on the Scriptures, our attitude is one of meekness and receptiveness. When we meet with the hard sayings, and difficult challenges, we must continue to receive with meekness the ENGRAFTED WORD. You see, this is how we become doers of the Word! The Word of God becomes a part of us -- whether we mentally understand it or not!

The Scriptures become a means for us to receive the Life of God into our bodies! They also can convey the wonderful revelation of the Person of Christ unto us, as the Mighty Presence of the Holy Spirit enlightens our study of them!

Always remember. Whatever Christian discipline we practice -- whether it is prayer, fasting, Bible study, church meetings; whatever offerings we give unto the ministry and the needy; whatever services we perform for humanity -- in all things our ultimate desire is to KNOW HIM, and there is a beauty to be discovered in every one of these activities when we see Him **in them!**

This ONE THING I DO, forgetting those things that are behind me, reaching forth unto those things that are before, I press towards the mark for the prize of the upward call of God IN CHRIST JESUS!

Heavenly Father,

There are more than a million distractions both within us and from without us today, that strive for our attention. How easy it has become for us to simply forget you, your love, your life, and your purpose for our lives. Give us a new and fresh revelation of your Son, and His glorious Bride, the Church. And fill us with a consuming passion and love for you.

Our commitment today is to keep our faces towards you. Give us the strength to follow through with this commitment in turning away from any idols that have found places in our hearts. We lay our hopes, dreams, and fears before you. We lay our careers, hobbies and even our families on your altar.

Accept our bodies as living sacrifices unto you, and also our love which is merely a response to your great Love for us. Keep us on this path, for our trust is only in You.

In Jesus Lovely Name,

Amen

Chapter Seven:

Reigning With Christ

As history continues to unfold before our very eyes, it is becoming increasingly necessary for those who name the name of Christ to truly know their King. These are days to sit at His feet, and to hear His Word! This is a time to look into His glorious Face and behold His glory! These are the days to begin to discern the Lord's Body, and experience His Lordship TOGETHER!

The Spirit of the Lord is calling out, not just individuals, but a PEOPLE for His Name! These are those who will one day stand up in this earth to fully and openly represent His power and authority to all. In fact, they already represent His authority now -- to the degree that they presently **know Him** as their Lord!

Hear this warning! If we are not acknowledging His Lordship now, we have no reason to expect to reign with Him tomorrow! And if we are not already coming into an intimate union with Him and His Love, we have absolutely NO HOPE of truly knowing the beauty, the majesty, the wonder, the glory, the awesomeness of our Lord Jesus Christ as He already is NOW!

Beloved, my heart is grieved at the years that I have and so many others have wasted. Our religious theories have divided the Body of Christ, when in fact we should have been preaching Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. Rather than proclaiming His Lordship, many of us have labored to bring others under our own influence instead! We thought that somehow WE could discourage sin and disobedience, worldliness and selfishness by our own efforts! But the pressure of human authority has eventually distanced many poor souls from the marvelous and liberating authority of the only true Christ!

Even though warnings, exhortations, corrections and instructions have their place in the family of God, we must never forget the proper context in which they are exercised! The context is always under the umbrella of our King and His Word!

Ephesians 6:4: And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

In all things and at all times, we who dwell in the kingdom of God are under the rule, the care, the security and protection of our King!

Therefore, we must come to the place that we are ever conscious of Him!

Are you weary of being subject to the power of circumstances and your own human weaknesses! Is there a hunger in you towards the dominion and rule in life that was originally given to Adam? Are you frustrated by the constant evidence that Satan appears to be gaining more ground in your life than Christ Himself?

Listen to me. This is not your inheritance! You are destined to rule and reign with Christ! The privilege of reigning in Life is available to you NOW! (Romans 5:17) The people that KNOW THEIR GOD shall be strong, and do exploits (Daniel 11:32), but the real key here is in KNOWING OUR GOD!

Yes, we seem to keep coming back to this place again and again, and this we will do as the Lord directs. The great need of the hour is for the people of God to return to Him! It is time to forsake our plans, programs and schemes, and return to our first love! It is time for us all to fall in love **with Him** over and over and over and over again!

Preachers must preach Jesus Christ -- His glory, His Wisdom, His Love, His Lordship, His ultimate triumph over sin and the devil, and His endless reign over this vast universe! He is the key, the alpha and omega, the beginning and ending, the first and the last, the One Who was, and is, and is to come -- THE ALMIGHTY!

He is the Head of His Body -- the Church! In all things He is absolutely preeminent! All things were made by Him and without Him NOTHING was made! He is before all things, and by Him **all things** consist! (Colossians 1:16-18).

Such a simple truth, but oh how complicated things have become for us! This complicated state of affairs is the work of the serpent, who continually strives to allure us from the simplicity that is found in our intimately knowing Christ. He apparently knows how badly this event alone will impact his kingdom!

But what of the fallen nature of man? What of the disobedience of God's people? Do not these also prevent the knowledge of the glory of God from sweeping across the land?

Oh how little we regard the power of ONE who simply and truly becomes wholly devoted to Jesus Christ and His Lordship! And how this ONE can impact the lives of so many that remain in darkness!

Do you want to reign with Christ? Do you believe in **His** ability to work through anyone who surrenders completely to His Love? Can you trust in His willingness to stimulate the growth of that mustard seed of belief that you do possess, and help you to overcome all doubts?

Did He not create you? Can He not heal, restore and use you for His glory? Is He not able to transform you into His image from glory to glory -- by the power of His Spirit? Is not His Word alive and at work in you at this very moment -- changing and molding and working in you His perfect will?

Praise Him! Declare His goodness! Worship His Name! Behold His glory! Stand and behold the wonderful salvation of your God! And most importantly, respond unto Him in obedient devotion. Herein is the power to reign **with Him** revealed.

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

"Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly. Their teaching will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some.

"Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

"In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

"Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart". (2 Tim 2:15-2:22)

Yes, there is hypocrisy. Yes there is corruption all around, even among those who call themselves Christians. But these are not your main concerns. You and I are pressing towards the mark for the high

calling of God in Christ Jesus. Our eyes are fixed upon Him. We desire to be vessels of honor, useful to the Master for every good work.

We are fleeing youthful lusts, and following after righteousness, faith, love and peace. Our hearts are joined with those who call upon the Lord out of a pure heart! Together we have hope for the reign of Christ in this earth. And together we expect to see Him in His fullness!

“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

*“And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, **together with all the saints**, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge--that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God”. (Ephesians 3:14-19)*

Heavenly Father,

Today we have considered the immensity of your power towards us who believe. We have seen how you have raised us up together, to be seated in heavenly places in Christ. We are overwhelmed at your amazing grace and your infinite Love, by which we have become a new creation.

May everyone of us commit ourselves into your trust, in order that we will walk worthy of this holy vocation, to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, giving pleasure to your great and loving Heart.

In this marvelous union with you, may our lives become living examples of your righteous reign in the earth, to become more than conquerors through your Love!

In Jesus Name,

Amen

Chapter Eight:

Entering the Kingdom

As we begin with the 8th message in this series of teachings concerning the Kingdom of God, we recognize that this could go on almost indefinitely. The universal reign of God in Christ is a vast subject, and here we will do well to just scratch the surface. But the encouraging thing is that your spiritual life is not solely dependent on the reading of this single booklet, or on any single human teacher for that matter! *All things* are working together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose! (Romans 8:28).

Every moment of every day of our lives is filled with challenges and possibilities for participation in the Kingdom of our God! He is at work in you right now, to plant His desires in you to will and do His good pleasure! Yield to Him! Surrender to Him! Say "amen" to Him -- but first of all confirm that you are giving yourself to the power of the Living Word of God, and *not* to the lies of Satan!

Yes, there is a struggle to enter into the Kingdom of God! The Gospel is preached, and every man presses into it! In Acts 14:22, we read how Paul confirmed the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must *through much pressure enter into the kingdom of God*. But what of salvation? What of the free gift of God's grace? Here is where the confusion begins, and here is where we must find clear answers.

From the time Jesus began His public ministry, people began to be set free. The Spirit of the Lord was upon Him, anointing Him to preach good tidings to the poor. He was sent to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, and to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18,19)

Jesus Himself IS the year of Jubilee! He is God's gift of grace to mankind! Untold millions have known his salvation, and thousands more are discovering it unto this day!

But the reign of God is another matter. The slave to sin must first be set free, but what will he do with that freedom? God is looking for those who will voluntarily come under His authority, and how many even understand this fact?

The Gospel of the Kingdom is greater than the popular Gospel of salvation! This is the Good News of God's wonderful reign of righteousness, peace and joy in the earth! This is the power of God to save us from our own ways, and bring us into a full understanding of the way, the life, the love and the service of God to mankind!

What a gracious, giving God we serve! What an awesome offer He has given us -- to rule and reign with Him! What joy we have in knowing that He lives within us to accomplish His purpose through us! What a thrill it is to begin living Kingdom life -- today!

Truly, the world at large has yet to see the Kingdom of God, but many of us are like His disciples, who did not taste of death until they **saw** the son of Man, **coming in His Kingdom!** (Matthew 16:18)

Those who are born from above have special, heavenly vision! By the Spirit of God, they are enabled to **see the kingdom of God!** (John 3:3) But entering the Kingdom of God is a process in which salvation and regeneration are just the beginning!

Jesus said we must be born of the water and the Spirit to enter into the Kingdom or reign of God. Some believe this to be a reference to water and Holy Spirit baptism, but please bear with me in this for a few minutes. Water has often been used to symbolize the Word of God.

Ephesians 5:25-27: “ *Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the **washing of water by the word**, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*”

Water baptism is important in many ways. It is used to represent our identification with the death of our Lord, and our personal death to the old life. It is very possible that Jesus was speaking of water baptism, but also of the part that His Word plays in our cleansing, as we are brought under the wonderful reign and purposes of God!

John 15:3: “*Now ye are clean through **the word** which I have spoken unto you.*”

*".....being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the **word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever."* (1 Pet 1:23)

Oh to search out the miracle of our new birth, and our new life in Christ! Who can comprehend it? How does His marvelous Eternal Word begin to transform us from within? How do we then begin to walk in newness of Life by the power of the Holy Spirit?

And how do we continue in His Word, becoming His disciples indeed! Growing in the Grace and knowledge of Jesus our Lord -- from faith to faith, from glory to glory -- being transformed by the renewing of our minds to prove His good, acceptable and perfect will, demonstrating the reality of His Kingdom to the world?

Do you feel yourself beginning to enter into this higher dimension of Life, where righteousness, peace and joy prevail, where the will of God is done as if heaven has come down? This is the power of the Gospel of the Kingdom, the cleansing of His Word, and the renewing of His Spirit! This is your entrance into His realm today!

You and I are daily learning of the Lordship of our Saviour Jesus Christ! By His Hand we are being conformed to His image, while all of creation awaits our completion! The faithful apostle Peter continues to exhort us unto this day, concerning this amazing progression!

2 Pet 1:5-11: *"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity."*

"For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."

*"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for **if ye do** these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."*

Many do not like these words, "if," and "do." They fear that the Gospel of His Grace can so easily be undermined. But I declare unto you that His Grace *"has appeared to all men, teaching us to deny*

*ungodliness and worldly lusts, to live soberly, righteously and Godly, IN THIS PRESENT WORLD, Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, **zealous of good works.**" (Titus 2:12-14)*

It is time for some of us to begin to take responsibility for the gifts that God has given us, and begin to bear fruit today in the Kingdom of God!

Heavenly Father,

These great mysteries of your Kingdom are too wonderful for us to comprehend. How can we fully understand, much less describe them? But we do have the assurance that you will surely bring us forth unto maturity in your purposes.

Bring to birth that heavenly life within each of us, and then continue to manifest your majesty both to us and through us today.

In Jesus Name we ask,

Amen

Chapter Nine:

Kingdom Authority

In the pages of this booklet, we have been underscoring the fact that the great emphasis of Jesus in His earthly ministry was the **Good News** of the **Kingdom of God**.

It is interesting to note that in the New Testament, the phrase "*Kingdom of God*" is found 69 times, while the phrase "*Kingdom of Heaven*" occurs 32 times and all in the Gospel according to Matthew. While neither of these phrases are found in the Old Testament, there are numerous references to the subject. In fact, the prophecies in Daniel are very important in showing how both phrases developed.

Consider Daniel 2:44: *"And in the days of these kings shall the **God of heaven** set up a **kingdom**, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever."*

Here we see the fact of the **one Kingdom**. It is the Kingdom of **God**, for He alone reigns over it. It is the Kingdom of **Heaven**, for Heaven is the location of His throne, and the sphere in which all of His subjects actually dwell! Oh yes! In Ephesians 2:6 we read how we who were dead and trespasses and sins, have been made alive in Christ, and even now are seated in heavenly places in Him!

When Jesus prayed, *"Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven,"* He knew that God was calling His children unto a heavenly life, which would actually have profound effects on the earthly plane. This is the nature of Kingdom authority. In one sense it is the very ability to manifest heaven on earth!

This is in stark contrast with worldly authority, which is a forcing of one's will upon another. Jesus exemplified this authority which was of a heavenly nature, and instructed his disciples to follow suit. No mistake can be made concerning His attitude towards human authority. But He only moved in the power of the Living Word of God!

Mat 20:25-28: *"But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall **not be so among you**: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even*

as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

Luke 22:24-27: “ *And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest. And he said unto them, The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. But **ye shall not be so**: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but **I am among you as he that serveth.**”*

Kingdom authority is the ability to **serve, liberate** and to **give life**, but **never** to control or coerce!

An example of this is found in the sixth chapter of the Gospel according to John. This was a point in time when many of His followers left Him. They said His teachings were just too hard. So Jesus put to the twelve who remained:

"Will ye also go away?"

*.... Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the **words of eternal life**? “(John 6:68).*

Jesus never violated anyone's freedom of choice, but He did wield an authority such as no man has ever known! His authority was in the **life** that He possessed, and in His ability to share it with others. To Peter, no other choice would have been reasonable. There was nowhere else to go to satisfy that hunger for true divine, abundant and eternal life!

Reigning with Christ

It is important that we fully understand Biblical rulership. It is based on one's inner light. Remember when in Genesis the greater light was **to rule** the day, and the lesser light the night? How does light rule? By **giving illumination** of course! Oh how we on earth depend on the sun to give us the light and warmth we need to sustain us! And oh how

we need the illumination of the Word and Spirit of God to survive spiritually!

Furthermore, Jesus offered this same Kingdom authority to anyone who received Him and followed Him. In other words, we too can hold the words of eternal life, and also impart that same life to anyone who will receive them! But we first must humble ourselves to be trained and instructed for servanthood. Your degree of authority in God's Kingdom will only be equal to *your submission* unto Him, and *your willingness* to serve others.

Oh the depth of the wisdom of God! It is so amazing in its simplicity, and wonderful in its working. What mystery revealed! What power released to heal and mend, to deliver and save! No wonder Jesus could go about doing good, healing all those who were sick and oppressed of the devil, for God was with Him! (Acts 10:38) He possessed the authority of a King, but the heart of a servant!

He is the Light of the world, and we are His sons of Light! As we live together under His reign of righteousness, peace and joy, we become the Light of the world, a city set on a hill that cannot be hid! (Matthew 5:14)

*“But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and **people shall flow unto it**. And **many nations** shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

“And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken it. For all people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever.” (Micah 4:1-5)

Can you see how liberating this truth can actually be in your every day experience? No longer do we need to control or pressure others to do our will. We merely yield to the wonderful will of our Heavenly

Father, and become His Light bearers! Yes, some will resist and reject the Light we offer, but those who run into it will receive grace and wisdom and freedom in Christ!

Believe it! Trust Him! He is giving to you and me the *keys to the Kingdom of heaven*! You can receive a Word of Life from the Lord to pass on to others! They too can enter into His Kingdom, and know of heavenly places in Christ! You and I can know the joy of serving others -- *this is Kingdom authority*!

Let us never forget: any giving, any sacrifice, any time spent in helping people is not to place them under obligation unto you or the Lord. Some selfless acts will be disregarded and unappreciated, but both you and the Lord will honor that person's right to choose. Your reward will be found in the gratitude of your Heavenly Father, Who will never forget your love and devotion unto Him.

Your seeds of faith are not limited to financial donations! Every kindness done in the Love of God has **Kingdom potential**! These produce the authority of Kingdom life in others, and work to expand His glorious reign in the earth!

Philippians 2:14-16: *“Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, **the sons of God**, without rebuke, **in the midst** of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom **ye shine as lights in the world**; Holding forth **the word of life**; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain”.*

Do you really want to rule and reign with Christ? Then you must accept the life of humility and service that Jesus offers! Herein is found the power to change the world! And while we have the promise of seeing the fullness of His Kingdom in the days ahead, our reign with Him can begin today, as we understand and apply the principles of His Kingdom authority in our every circumstance even now.

Heavenly Father,

Often we feel so helpless and powerless to deal with even the kingdoms that war within our own souls. Our fears, our pride, our selfishness often cloud our view of your power and Lordship in our circumstances, preventing us from fully reigning in Life by Christ Jesus.

Forgive us, and grant us the faith and confidence we need to commit our lives and our future into your capable Hands. Give us a fresh vision of your glory, and your purpose in this earth. And then may we trust you to empower us in every battle against sin and unrighteousness, together as one in your Spirit.

Give us the strength to rise up in the earth and shine for you! That others will see our good works and glorify your Name!

Let our every thought, word and deed become an expression of this wonderful truth:

Jesus Christ is Lord!

Understanding His Will and His Kingdom

When considering and seeking to understand the will of God for our lives, we must realize the importance of knowing His overarching purpose for our generation. One writer of the Proverbs states that *"where there is no vision the people perish, but he that keeps God's law, happy is he."* (Proverbs 29:18)

In the Word or command of the King, there is power, and oh how we in our generation need to see and experience the power of Jesus **our King** in our lives! I can scarcely think of an area of my life that is not in great need of the manifested power of Christ! How about you? Do you also crave for the release of prisoners all around you?

Do you have personal prisons, or do you cry out daily for loved ones, at home, at school or the work place, in the city and neighborhood, and in your local churches? Or has perhaps the deceiver convinced you that these oppressions the people are under are actually the *"will of God?"*

Well, today we are hearing a message of Good News! That Good News is about Christ's kingdom of love, joy, freedom, righteousness and peace! This Good News is the power of God unto salvation -- to everyone who believes!

2000 years ago, Jesus proclaimed this message of Good News, that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand! And Peter later stated in Acts 2:39 that *"the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."*

In that day, the Kingdom of Heaven began as a small mustard seed, planted in the earth, and today it has grown into a mighty tree! And as yeast which is mixed in with ordinary flour, causing the whole loaf to rise, the principles of the Reign of God that Jesus both taught and manifested, is continuing to leaven the whole earth! (Matthew 13:31-33). Thus is the power of the Word of our King! It pierces deep into our hearts, causing repentance and an inner transformation, that ripples outward to this sin cursed world in which we live!

Do you hunger for the Power of His Word and His Kingdom in your life? Are you hearing the call to be His disciple, to follow Him wherever He goes? Are you ready to exchange your feeble, useless life, for His full, rich, and meaningful life, one that promises to bring down all of the kingdoms of men? Are you up to such a challenge?

Of course not! Neither you nor I have the guts, the faith, the courage to rise up in obedience to His commands, but wait! There is grace, there is the power, there is the faith you need *in Christ!* You need but to surrender unto Him, place yourself at His feet, and simply watch, as He comes unto you, to fill you with His Love!

You can receive an ear to hear, and faith to respond to His commands! You can become the person God has always intended you to be! This is His plan. This is His will for you! You have a part to play in the advancement of His Kingdom! But you must first know the Good News yourself!

This is a message of great relevance, even in our modern times. Jesus Christ is Lord! We must crown Him Lord of all! We must acknowledge His Lordship in every area of our lives! Herein is the power of God to manifest His Kingdom to all mankind!

When Jesus said, "*I AM the TRUTH,*" He was not simply stating that His was the true religion. It was much more than that! The life of love and sacrifice that He lived, the relationship with the Father that He possessed, His joyous submission to the Father's will, and His message of hope and freedom for all mankind -- all of this was Him -- ***He IS the TRUTH!***

He ***IS*** the way, the truth, and the Life -- the design of God for our lives and our world, and the means of fulfilling God's glorious purpose for all!

Brothers, sisters, God today is raising up messengers to proclaim the Good News of His Kingdom reign in the earth! Perhaps you may be one of them! He will send you out into your work places and the marketplaces in the daily routines of your lives. You will carry His Message by the righteousness, peace and joy that lives within you! Your very countenance will witness to His Lordship!

Some may even have a word to declare, direct from the heavenly headquarters, issued from the King Himself! Others will bow in silence, awaiting His Command, for only His authority can bring the deliverance we seek!

Jesus taught us to pray for His Kingdom to come and the Father's will to be done **in earth**, as it is in heaven! And then He sent His disciples out 2 by 2 on a mission to bring heaven down! They healed the sick, raised the dead, cleansed the lepers, and declared unto them that the Kingdom of God had come near unto them!

When we wonder where the power of God has gone from His church, do we consider that we may have failed to fully present His Gospel? His Gospel was not easy and cheap. It challenged and confronted men and women to perfection. It called them upward into a heavenly life **now!** It required them to forsake all and follow Him!

But the easy believism of modern Christianity requires nothing more than church attendance, and our financial support. "Give us your money and we'll do the rest." Do you and I have any idea how much God must hate the watering down of the most glorious message of all time!

How foolish we must be to actually believe that He exists merely to satisfy our own personal dreams and aspirations! It is time for us to get back to the true, full Gospel of Jesus Christ! Only this Word will deliver us from ourselves and our fleshly pride!

Jesus loves you! He came to deliver the captives, to heal the broken-hearted, to bring good news to the poor, giving sight to the blind -- and He is still in the business of salvation yet today! That is what you are here for -- to continue in this great tradition of telling the Good News of His advancing Kingdom!

Don't think for one moment that you won't meet with resistance, from both within you and without! But be of good cheer, Jesus has overcome! You are entering into a world where life and love are the only laws! In these, you will find true victorious living! You are coming into -- ***THE WILL OF GOD!***

Previously we gave forth the challenge to true community life among believers. Oh how the witness of the Gospel in the early believers was strengthened by their love for one another! And oh how our witness to His Kingdom is weakened by our disunity, competition, and lack of love for one another!

Did you know our Lord actually prayed for us, that we might be one, that the world might know the truth of His coming, and believe that He was sent from God the Father? (John 17:20-23).

Can we dare to resist His purpose, for a visible unity among believers, who are learning to live together and love one another in His Love?

What a challenge! To stay at the foot of His Cross, allowing it to work grace and forgiveness within us, giving us the power to love as He loved!

Yes! In the Word of a King there **is power!** And our power is found in responding to His command to love and give and share our lives with one another, becoming a visible demonstration of His Kingdom in this earth! Hallelujah! You can do it! So can I! But only because of our trust in Jesus, His Lordship, His Eternal Word, the Power of His Cross working deep within us, and the energy of the Holy Spirit to live His Life **through us!**

But what a thrill! To participate in the crashing down of hell's mighty strongholds! Carnal and earthly weapons cannot accomplish this, but we have weapons that are mighty through our God! Love, grace, faith, and obedience to Him will overcome fear, hatred, defeat and death. And **together**, as **His people**, we are strong!

We, having received a Kingdom that cannot be moved, can now stand victorious in the righteousness, peace, truth and joy of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Heavenly Father,

It seems that we have been so often inclined to stray from the simplicity of Christ, and life as members of His body. So often we have even forgotten who we are, and who we are becoming by your grace -- children in the family of God, growing up unto full stature in you.

We ask that you forgive us for our complacency, heal us from our hardness or bitterness, and deliver us from our lack of courage and faith in you. May we hear your Voice anew, and receive fresh direction from your throne, joining ranks together in your army -- as soldiers of the Light!

May the Good News of your advancing Kingdom fill our hearts, spilling over into every relationship. And may we see again the days of liberation in Christ, that only living and proclaiming your message of hope can Bring.

In Jesus precious Name,

Amen

The Church and the Kingdom in History

In these modern times, the believing Christian is more informed than ever before. Today We have television, radio, the printed page, and now the internet at our disposal. With all of our Christian schools and colleges, as well as the Christian media, we can easily become educated and stay informed of all major events and trends in this world with the facts from a Christian perspective.

These days believers are becoming preoccupied with the activities of our leaders, and are naturally concerned with many troubling situations on the global scene. It is normal and also important that we are aware of the world around us, to which we have been called to shine His Glorious Light.

But there is the danger that we might lose our focus on the Lord Himself in all of this. Are we not to live our lives by every Word that proceeds out of His mouth? Where is *His* focus today? To what is *His* attention directed? Where is *His* Heart, and what exactly consumes *Him*? Is there anyone out there that desires, even hungers and thirsts for the Lord's point of view?

May I boldly affirm today that the focus of God's attention has always been on His eternal purpose, and that people through which His purpose is being accomplished! Today, and even in these troubled times we know by the Word of the Lord that His purpose is His Kingdom reign and that people who are in His great Heart is that true Church, His Body, the fullness of Him which filleth all in all!

What was the prayer that Jesus prayed and taught us all to pray? It was for His Kingdom to come and for His will to be done IN EARTH, as it is in heaven! And who did He pray for in the garden, that they would be one, so that the world would know and believe in Him?

He prayed for His people, His Church -- for these are the important and most significant of all history -- especially in the closing days of this age!

Have you ever really considered the significance of the church in history? Do you realize that the entire creation is eagerly waiting for you and me to come together unto spiritual maturity in Christ, revealing His true nature to all? (Romans 8:19-22, 28-29).

Why do you think that Satan rages against any small move you attempt to make in the advance of God's Kingdom? He knows, even

though the rulers of this world do not, that the eternal purpose of God is invested in you, and that His Church is preparing to make known the wisdom of God to all of them! (Ephesians 3:10-11).

All things are working together for your good, to you who have been called to fulfill His purpose! But what does that mean? Does that mean God wants me to have nice things? Are we to pursue personal peace and happiness? Or are we rather to SEEK FIRST the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness, in order that all temporal and spiritual blessing would not distract us from His will? Our Father already knows what we have need of materially, but our greatest need is to **know Him**, His will and His righteousness!

Yes, the president of the U.S. is important and significant. The leaders of all major nations do have an important part to play in history. But from God's viewpoint, He has been working on a people for 6000 years that are about to *change the course of History!*

These are the ones who rule and reign with Him! Because they are under His reign, they reign in His authority! He must reign until all enemies are put under His feet, but we are under Him now! We are in His Kingdom now! *We reign in life now!*

But so many Christians are willing to spiritualize the Kingdom into an imaginary fantasy world, a place where we can go to escape the struggles of this life, or perhaps a place that we expect to see eventually when we die. The church is often seen as this big bus, picking up passengers on its way to heaven. Once seated, we simply wait to arrive at our destination. But is this the true Biblical view of Christ's Church -- that people who are breaking down the gates of hell?

You and I need to catch a vision of God's purpose for this earth! We need to see how significant we are to the present unfolding of history! For thousands of years up until now, saints have died to fulfill their part in God's plan for this earth. Are we willing to lay down our hopes, our aspirations, our personal ambitions, our personal security to face the challenge of God to our generation?

Or are we satisfied to watch history unfold on television or in the news as simple spectators? Does it feed your soul to watch carnal man control and use and abuse the helpless in our world every day? Or have you found the food that nourished our Lord? His meat was to the will of Him who sent Him, and to *finish His Work in the earth!* (John 4:34)

Was Jesus simply a philosopher with a wonderful and wise and positive teaching? Or was He a man of action? Did He teach us to live a

live of retreat, escape, survival, and fear? Or did He give us peace, love, boldness and courage to face the challenges of our day?

Please consider these questions, my brother, my sister in Christ. But be careful. Your life might just begin to be changed! You just might become released and snatched away from a man-centered religion, and a self-centered existence, to become translated into a realm full of challenges, failures, victories and defeats, but all the while filled with His abundant life!

Do you want to change the world? Or is Satan whispering into your ear that this is just not possible?

Well, who are you going to believe in and trust -- the father of Lies, or Truth Himself, who boldly declared that *all things are possible with God!* Are we standing with God? Are we listening to His Voice?

If so, we are being prepared for action! Get ready saints to break down the very gates of hell! You are not riding a bus -- you have been enlisted into an army! You are becoming strong in the Lord, and in the power of *His might!* (Ephesians 6:10).

Two thousand years ago Jesus, after His resurrection gave his disciples a direct command. They were to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Holy Ghost. Their obedience to this command was the most powerful act that mortal men have ever committed. For many days they waited for Him in prayer and humility as He knitted their souls together in His Love.

Then on the day of Pentecost they were endued with power from on high! They were all filled with the Holy Ghost and became powerful witnesses unto Him! Of them it would be testified that they had turned the world upside down! (Acts 17:6).

But those early disciples never forgot the true source of their power. Over the years they continued in His general command to make disciples of all nations, telling others of the Good News that filled their hearts. But they also knew how to act on the Holy Spirit's initiative, for only by Him could the work be effective.

Today we often fall into patterns that have been established by the generations before us who were in fact directed by the Spirit of the Lord -- but what is God saying unto us today? And even worse, we so easily become caught up in the machinery of organized religion, becoming so deeply entrenched in our traditions that the Voice of God goes virtually unheard.

It is high time to hear the Word of the Lord! There is no life in the words or the counsels of men!

What saved Noah and his family? His obedience to the Word of the Lord! And how do you suppose to protect your own in these complex and disturbing times? Will your knowledge of world markets save you? Will your trust in democracy or free enterprise save you? No!

The only true security for the people of God is in *the secret place of the Most High, under the shadow of the Almighty!* Here we find even more than peace and security, for we are now discovering the power and the purpose of God for our lives!

God is giving a wake-up call unto His own! *"Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee Light!" "Call upon Me and I will answer, and show unto you great and mighty things, that you know not!"* (Ephesians 5:14, Jeremiah 33:3).

Are you listening to the Voice of God today? What is **He** saying unto you? I can tell you with all confidence that His desire is for you to receive the *spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened that you might know what is the hope of His calling, and the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.* (Ephesians 1:18)

Bible teachers can be of help by pointing us to Him. They can even represent Him as His holiness is revealed to you in their own lives. But the Lord of the universe wants to inhabit **you!** He desires that same intimate union with you through which **you** can be impregnated by His life!

He wants to set you free from your preoccupation with rules and traditions. His law is written on the tables of your hearts! Your delight is to do His will! Your joy is in pleasing Him! Every deed done in His Name -- whether great or small, whether simple or insignificant -- whether noticed by others or not -- the satisfaction of His Heart is all you truly desire! Is this not true? Well come on then, just admit it!

Those hesitations, those resisting thoughts are not really your own. They belong to a dead man, the person you were before Christ found you! That man was slain on the cross **with Him** two thousand years ago! Today God is calling forth the **real you -- the New Creation Man!** This new life, this new man is the one who will fulfill the will of God in our day. He is **Christ in you, the hope of glory!**

Are you hearing His Voice today? Are you feeling a radical change coming over you? Then simply yield unto Him. *"Trust in the Lord with all of your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. Acknowledge Him in all your ways, and He will direct your paths!"* (Proverbs 3:5-6)

He will speak unto you with His Living Word! He will fill you up with His Holy Spirit! He will empower you to live the impossible life!

So say no to Satans lies! Say no to the limitations of religious thinking! Say no to your own doubts and fears! **He** is the Truth! You can know the Truth, and the Truth - will - make - you - free!

Just worship Him Who is invisible, immortal, all-powerful and all-knowing! Let all the idols fall and worship only Him! Then and only then can your life and mine make the difference in the world around us that has an eternal value.

Then we can begin to truly behold our God!

Heavenly Father,

You know how easily distracted we have become in these days. The cares of this life keep pressing in on us, and the lies of the enemy attempt to drown out the sound of your sweet call.

Give us ears to hear from you today. And fill our hearts with the vision of You. Then may we arise to that marvelous sound, and follow you into the heavenlies in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen

Many of us on this planet have certain common long and short term concerns. Those who have been called by God to come out of the thinking and lifestyles of the world often have difficulty in reconciling our concerns with those of the Lord Himself. After many years this writer has become persuaded of late that God does care about the things which trouble us in our daily lives. How great is His love and patience for us as we finally come to the conclusion that all of our spiritual, emotional and physical needs are truly fulfilled in Him!

Oh how we all need to focus more on Him! This is an area where Christians often fail, much to the rejoicing of our enemies. They know that when we finally realize the power of simple, pure devotion to God, we will not be stoppable!

The purpose of this message is to share some understanding of God and His eternal purpose, that has helped me greatly in allowing Him to return to the center of my life. The hope is that when you consider and meditate in these truths, your life will then be seen as part of a more wonderful and greater whole. Then the past, present and future will begin to connect, and the patterns of our daily lives can develop deeper spiritual meaning.

The great Creator, the God of the whole universe, has always been the God of now, but we can only begin to appreciate that fact as we come to know Him in the present. 3500 years ago, Moses knew the God of now, or the Great I AM, through the law that descended from Mount Sinai. Many others would later testify of the life that the law breathed into them in those days. In my day, however, God is not present in that old covenant system. I can only find the God of today in the location of time and space that I find myself in.

THERE IS A TIME AND A PLACE...

Road maps have been helpful to mankind since their invention. Their purpose is to aid the user in arriving at their destination. The first thing that must be done, however, is to find our present location on the map. We must look for a street sign, landmark or anything we can find at that location, which has a corresponding spot on the map. Have you ever appreciated the red mark found on shopping mall maps that brightly indicate, YOU ARE HERE?

After finding our location on the map, we can then begin charting a course to our destination. With the help and direction of the Holy Spirit, I sincerely hope that together we can begin to understand, first, what our destination in the plan of God is, then to find out where we are now in that plan. With that we can all begin moving towards that destination together for His glory. Becoming evermore conscious of His eternal purpose in our daily lives, we can then begin to know Him in His Eternal Now.

In the middle ages, a scientist named Copernicus made a discovery. He learned by an honest and thorough investigation of the facts that the earth was not the center of the universe as was previously believed. Upon receiving this revelation, everything else began to fall into place. He could then more easily and accurately chart the courses of all the planets, their moons, and our relationships with the stars. Think of it. Our current explorations of the moon and space would have never been possible without this knowledge. The heart of this revelation was, of course, that the sun is the center of our solar system, and that the earth revolves around the sun.

It is time for man, and even for Christendom, to come to the conclusion that the universe does not revolve around us. God is, has been, and always will be the center. When we begin to see this, everything begins to harmonize and work together in perfect order. For thousands of years we thought it was about us, our sin, our salvation, our peace, security and happiness. Even though these concerns are legitimate, the focus will be entirely wrong when man is at the center.

With man, the story begins at the fall, and the focus becomes redemption, salvation, restoration etc. All of these are crucial elements in God's design, but it seems so natural for the focus to become fixed on us and our needs, rather than on God and His Glory.

THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE

As a boy, I grew up in relative poverty, and worshipped with many other Christians who struggled financially. In time a certain subconscious thinking in me began to equate poverty with holiness. While in my thirties, I began to see the bondage I was in, and began to believe God for a better economic situation for my family. Prosperity did come, almost immediately, but I never desired to set my eyes on these material blessings. My deliverance was found in seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and in allowing Him to add the rest.

When I began to listen to the prosperity message as it was being preached on the radio and television at that time, there were certain disturbing elements that I could not get a handle on. Now, as I look back, I realize that most all of it was man centered. The glory of God was not the focus at all! I want you to know that God can often get more glory out of someone who lives a bare existence materially, when they are rich in the graces and the attributes of the Lord Jesus Christ!

In the beginning God! At the ending, God again becomes all-in-all! And when He is at the center of our being, it is always God for us during the time in between! In the map analogy that I used earlier, no one would simply take the map and just study it and rejoice that they possess it. Neither would they sit and dream of the wonderful destination and the pleasures they would enjoy when they get there. No, you take the map, find which turns to take and begin your journey. On this journey, you may stop and eat or re-fuel, make conversation on the way, or listen to music, etc. All the while you are conscious of where you are going, but also always aware of where you are now.

Some people like to sing about living for the moment, but often what they are really doing is squandering precious moments of the life that has been given to them by God. On the journey that we have been speaking of there is abundant life to be received, as well as to be poured out towards others. When our focus begins and ends with God, our resources never run out! But when our focus is on ourselves, the troubles never end. Life becomes an endless cycle of ups and downs. Survival becomes primary, even for very faithful churchgoers.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE MYSTERY!

“Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Ephesians. 3:8-11).

In any careful study of Paul's letter to the Ephesians, one should readily see a certain emphasis. The first emphasis is that God has a plan for His people and His creation. Secondly, He requires our participation

in that plan. Listen to me very carefully. Wherever you fit into that plan will be where the I AM lives to you, for you and through you! Do you want to live in the past, the future, or NOW? Just wait a minute, all of these are connected, they integrate into one harmonious whole -- in the mind of God. Now He is desiring to share the mystery of His will with you, that you can begin to really live today!

You see, there is a *fellowship* in this mystery! That word is *koinonia* in the Greek and it means *voluntary participation*. You have a part to play in the glorious, mysterious, eternal plan of God! Our human imaginations can scarcely comprehend the awesomeness of this mystery: *That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: (Ephesians. 1:10)*, but Paul prayed that the eyes of our understanding might be enlightened that we might *know* these things! (Ephesians. 1:17,18).

As we stand back with a wide-angle lens and view the over-arching purpose of God, we see how all things began in God and all things find their consummation in Him (Romans 11:36, 1 Cor. 15:28). But when we zoom in to see the working out of that plan, we see God working through people, namely us! (Romans 12:1,2; 2 Tim. 1:9,10; Ephesians. 2:10).

In the eternal purpose of God, we find many separate, but connected events. But to God they are all part of a wondrous whole. None of them are the end, only the means to an end:

- ♦ **In the beginning God**
- ♦ **The Creation. Let us make man in our image!**
- ♦ **The fall of man**
- ♦ **The redemption of man**
 - The cross**
 - The death and resurrection of Christ**
 - The birth of the church in power**
- ♦ **The present restoration of the church, with all her spiritual gifts and ministries in a loving community under Christ her Head**

- ♦ **The establishment of the Kingdom of God in the earth through Christ. Man expressing Christ, the very image of God**
- ♦ **The Kingdom surrendered to God, that God might be all in all.**

Now it is time for us to pick up the map, unfold it, and find our present location.

YOU ARE HERE!

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”(Ephesians. 4:11-13).

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.

“ If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.” (Romans 12:6-8).

“ Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.” (1 Corinthians 12:27).

By zooming in to the current stage of God’s plan we find a people that have been made alive in Christ. They are individuals but not working independently. They are each part of a greater body, the body of Jesus Christ. When every member functions, the whole body grows steadily and healthily unto the fullness of Christ’s stature, unto the glory and praise of God!

Next let us take the close-up lens and focus on each member. Notice how each one is vitally connected to the head, namely, Jesus Christ the Saviour and Lord of all! Then examine the connections between each member of the body. See how closely they interact and

support one another! Observe the knitting of each joint and sinew, every bone and muscle. Notice how important it is for every cell in every organ to be healthy and at work, that the body can stand up and fully represent God in the earth!

Let me ask you a question. Do you really want to live NOW? Do you want to see the I AM in reality, every day of your life? Then begin right now to let go of your egocentricity. Begin to realize that you are a small but integral part of a glorious whole! This thing is so much bigger than you and I, than my church -- your church! This is not really about you and I at all! It is about God! It is about the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and ending, the first and the last -- the Great I AM!

Become swallowed up in the powerful significance of Him, and revel in the insignificance of your little world! Then in surrender to the destiny He has chosen for you, give yourself to the spiritual gifts that are within you by virtue of His matchless Grace! Pray with others and for others and rejoice in discovering the wonders of the Christ within every one!

Participate with God by communing with Him, sharing with Him your cares and dreams, and responding to every subtle direction of His Hand! Think of it! We are workers together with God, that all men might see and know the fellowship of the mystery of His will! Live today! Be a part of it!

On a personal note, I would like to share a portion of my journey with you. For decades now, many of my brethren and I have had the vision of God's eternal purpose in Christ Jesus. For many years we sang songs about it and preached sermons to one another to keep the vision alive.

Today I want you to know that something has happened to me to completely change my thinking and my life. I no longer need to hear those sermons to keep the vision alive. I am now living in it! I am no longer a passive observer, watching life pass me by, continuing to hope that some day the change will come. Now I am a participant. God is right now! He is present in my ups and downs, my heartaches and discouragements, my songs of praise and joy! Even more importantly, He is present when I am lifting up another wounded and hurting soul!

No longer do I sit and wait for the rapture or other mighty future events to come. Neither do I fill my days with things to pass the time. We are redeeming even the time, reclaiming it for the greater glory of God! We all have great and important things to do, each with eternal

significance! These include: rejoicing with them that rejoice, weeping with them that weep, letting our light shine among men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven! Some others are: imparting Christ into our grandchildren while baby sitting, writing letters to the brethren, calling up the lonely and forgotten on the phone, building up the body of Christ, helping a family move, etc., etc.

Take this challenge. Make a list of the things that God has blessed you to do for others. Continue to do them even more for the satisfaction of the Father's heart. Realize that this is living in the Great I AM, the God of now, and is part of His glorious plan to unite all things in Christ. As you give yourself to hearing and responding to His Sweet Voice, what life you will find! What freedom from selfishness and self-centeredness! What God consciousness! Then behold as His kingdom expands and His Truth extends to the ends of the earth, for it has already begun in you!

Conclusion:

Have you ever considered the great humility of our God? It was He Who chose to clothe Himself in flesh, and to walk among men as a carpenter's son! Of all places to be born He chose an animal stall in an obscure village. Mystery of mysteries! History has recorded the countless times in which the Almighty God has taken pleasure in winning great victories by using the weak, the small, the few, the insignificant, the unknown. This event of all events would be no exception to this pattern.

This man of no reputation would prove to be the Saviour of the world, the King of all kings, and the Master of that most glorious domain, the Kingdom of Heaven. The wonderful simplicity of His plan for man would amazingly be the actual key to its effectiveness. And how dangerous it became to the masters of all other kingdoms!

How strange was the fact that so many religious leaders of that day feared this small and insignificant band who followed the teacher from Nazareth! Why was it so important to them that these preachers and their message be put to death? It becomes obvious that their activities were becoming a threat to the power and influence of these who coveted both the world's riches and the praise and honor of men.

After all, who could compete with pure, unadulterated Love, and the wonderful freedom associated with it? In the generations that followed, this idea, this spark of light, spread into a flame that engulfed Europe and has dynamically impacted the entire world unto this day!

As we have previously noted, at the center of Jesus' ministry was a powerful message known as the Gospel of the Kingdom. He passed it on to His apostles, which gave them the impetus to overcome some extremely difficult challenges. Their first hand knowledge of Jesus, His life, His teachings, His proclamation, His crucifixion and return from the grave, and finally their being baptized in His Spirit resulted in the establishment of the messianic community that we call the church.

Centuries later the church itself has become the focus and the Kingdom of God that Jesus so passionately proclaimed has become virtually forgotten. The prayer He taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come, they will be done IN earth, as it is heaven," has lost its meaning.

At this point one may wonder, what do we do with this knowledge? What is the practical significance of all this? How do the truths

discussed in this booklet relate to our everyday lives? With the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit, Who I believe is very eager for our increased Spiritual growth and well being, we will overcome our doubts, questions, and ignorance of His plan for us.

He can and will use the preceding words to provoke us towards a fresh look at the New Testament. He will help us to see that its recurring theme is the Kingdom of God. He will also encourage us with the understanding of how the faithful executions of our normal duties in the family, at work, school, and in local congregations pertain to His eternal purpose. When we see how even the proliferation of small house churches in the first century played an important role in the expansion of the Kingdom of God in the earth, we can become energized to continue on the course that He has begun for us as well.

While his letters to the churches and individuals in the New Testament made few direct references to the Kingdom of God, Paul the apostle was definitely a Kingdom preacher. In Acts 28:23 we read *"he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening."* And also in verse 31 we find him *"Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him."*

With this in mind, we can begin to recognize the significance of these house churches that sprang up as a result of Paul's preaching and teaching. They became little outposts of the Kingdom of God in a world that was hostile to genuine Truth. As the salt and light they seasoned society and illuminated the Way to eternal Life. They provided an alternative to the dog-eat-dog lifestyle that prevailed in their day, by practicing the simplicity of Christ's love together.

Whatever purpose God has for institutional Christianity, we who have been drawn out of it in our following of Jesus must understand our part in His plan. As we pray for His kingdom to come and His will to be done in this earth, we are becoming a practical expression of His reign, growing together as the Body of Christ. Our small group meetings are proving to be very fertile ground for the planting of the Lord. By His Word and Spirit we are beginning to function in the spiritual gifts that build up the Body, for both nurturing new-born children and for reproduction.

Individual and corporate spiritual growth is Kingdom growth. Home fellowships however, find no need to retain each member that grows up in the midst. When the time is appropriate, some of those who have matured can be directed of the Lord to extend the work elsewhere. Since no effort to maintain a huge organizational structure is required, the time and resources can be more efficiently used to build up the redeemed people, who are the church. Now that the Kingdom of God is ultimately in view, our little sectarian religious kingdoms hold no more power over us. This is the glorious freedom we have found in Christ!

Jesus is building His church, and establishing His righteous, peaceful and joyful Kingdom in us and through us! Therefore we must be both patient and encouraged, despising not the day of small things! In Christ our feeble efforts to glorify Him have eternal significance! May we continue and persevere in our labors unto Him in prayerful dedication, and bold determination to live under His reign! Then we can even now begin to rejoice in heavenly places with that final generation as it shouts forth:

"The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever." (Revelations 11:15)



*** What did Jesus say we were to "Seek first?"**

*** When did Jesus and John the Baptist say that the Kingdom of God was "at hand?"**

*** On what subject did Jesus make the most references in His teachings?**

*** What is the "Gospel of the Kingdom?"**

*** When and where did the reign of Christ begin? Or has the time not yet come?**

In all of the excitement over prophecies of the "end times," there is a danger of missing God's greater purpose for His people in the here and now.

Explore with us in these pages concerning the things that were important to Jesus over 2 thousand years ago, which things may even increase in importance in the glorious days that lie ahead of us!

**Living TRUTH Publications
901 S. Roys Ave.,
Columbus, Ohio 43204 U.S.A**