



Sermon Series Notes

“The Coming Kingdom” (Acts 28, Ephesians 1:18, Selected Scriptures)

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Testimonies of people who have begun to honor the Lord with their income

I Cor. 16, goal of paying off lowest loan by Easter weekend; set aside a sum weekly in keeping with your income.

Last week, correction, I do not believe the woman who anointed Jesus at the home of Simon the Pharisee was Mary the sister of Martha & Lazarus. One anointing took place in the home of Simon the Pharisee, and the other in the home of Simon the Leper (Matt.26).

Intro: We’ve had our focus the last several weeks on the kingdom of God, spring boarded on this topic by two comments Paul the apostle made in Acts 28, vv.23 & 31. We have looked at what the kingdom of God is, where the kingdom of God is, parables about the kingdom (Matt.13), who is the greatest in the kingdom, & worship and the kingdom, which we could have appropriately titled “worship worthy of the kingdom of God.” I think there are only three more subjects related to the kingdom of God that I’d like to cover. One is “Conflict & the Kingdom of God,” the second is “Characteristics of the Coming Kingdom,” and the third is the one I was planning to teach today, “Lifestyle Worthy of the Kingdom.” My plan is to cover these three subjects, then move on to the Gospel according to Mark.

At around 12 noon this past Friday I had completed 6 pages of typed notes for the message “Lifestyle Worthy of the Kingdom,” then God impressed upon my mind that the message I was preparing should be preceded by “Characteristics of the Coming Kingdom,” because part of our motivation to live lives worthy of the kingdom is an appreciation for being privileged to be a part of the kingdom. So Friday afternoon I shelved the message I was preparing, and began working on “Characteristics of the Coming Kingdom.” It was an extra busy weekend!

First message on the kingdom:

- Paradise (II Cor.12:2-4)
- Luke 23:42-43 “...Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus answered him, Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”
- Paradise: Ecstasy, bliss, nirvana, utopia, heaven.

Ephesians 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people.

Matthew 25:34...Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.

Col.1:12-14...giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Read Col.3:1-4; It's a real place! One of the ways I keep my mind on the kingdom of heaven is by praying the Lord's Prayer every morning.

The kingdom of God is coming to earth one day.

The Initial Kingdom on Earth – The Thousand Year Reign

- Rev.20:1-6 (We rule & reign with Christ)
- Unbelievers who survive the Great tribulation will populate the earth (Daniel 7:12)
- Christ rules with a rod of iron (Isa.11:4b; Psalm 2:9; Rev.19:15)
- Peace among the animal kingdom (Isaiah 11:6-9; 65:25)
- Longer life (Isaiah 65:20)

The Eternal Kingdom (Rev.21:1-5)

- No more death, mourning, crying, or pain
 - Highlight prayer requests from CC list
 - Alan Beck's 23 year old daughter Allison
 - Letter from Bill Gage
- New bodies
 - See I Cor.15:35-54; Spiritual bodies that have physical substance
- No sin
 - Rom.7:21-25
- No temptation
 - James 1:14...each one is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire...
- Food
 - Matthew 8:11 I say to you that many will come from the east and west and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven.
 - Rev.19:9...Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!
 - Luke 22:29-30 And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom...
 - Luke 24:41-43..."Do you have anything here to eat?" And they gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.
 - Rev.22:1-2a; When I think of perpetual fresh fruit I think about places like Hawaii. I had the privilege while at Liberty to work at a youth camp in the mountains of Maui one summer. We had fresh pineapple every day. It was a taste of heaven!
 - Note: The kingdom that is coming is paradise restored, Eden on heavenly steroids! There's no cold weather in the kingdom. No blizzards. How many

snowbirds do we have with us today? Blizzard conditions today in the nation's capital, but balmy in the capital of the kingdom of heaven!

- Animals; Read Rev.19:11-14; Animals in the thousand year reign;
 - Evangelist Billy Graham was once asked by a little child if their pet that died would be in heaven. Billy Graham's answer was, "If it would make you any happier, then yes, he will be."
- Heavenly Jerusalem
 - See Rev.21:10-27; A city of this size in the middle of the U.S. would stretch from Canada to Mexico and from the Appalachian Mountains to the California border.
- New heavens and new earth; travel
 - I love experiencing different places around the world, I just don't much enjoy the journey to get to them. In the coming kingdom our travel will be as glorious as the experience of our new destinations! I'm convinced we will be able to move horizontally & vertically, otherwise, what is the purpose of a cubed capital, the New Jerusalem?
- Family
 - Have you ever stopped to think about the members of our heavenly family? I'm especially excited to see my mother, grandmother, etc. But I get to hang out with David, Moses, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Samson, Elijah, Elisha, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Esther, Mother Mary, Mary Magdalene, the apostles, the thief on the cross, etc.
- Family harmony, peace, love
 - Have you ever noticed the division between God's people throughout the Bible? Adam & Eve, Cain & Abel, Abraham & Lot, Jacob & Laban, Jacob and his wives, Moses and the children of Israel, Moses' family grumbling against him because he had married a Cushite wife, The twelve spies sent into the Promised Land, Korah, Dathan & Abiram, The 9 tribes that rose up against Reuben, Gad, & half the tribe of Manasseh over the imposing altar they built, Solomon's son Rehoboam and the splitting of the kingdom of Israel, Acts 6 and the Grecian widows being neglected in the daily distribution of food, doctrinal division, especially over the issue of circumcision, I Cor.1:10-13, I Cor. 6 lawsuits against one another, Church at Phillipi, Paul's most beloved congregation, Euodia & Synteché, two women that had once worked together alongside the apostle Paul in ministry; Current issues at CCSP
 - Randy Alcorn in his book "In Light of Eternity" says "When you think of heaven, think of delighted, infectious laughter with those you love."
- International harmony, peace, love
 - Rev.21:24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.
 - Read Rev.7:9
 - See Luke 19:16-19; Will there be other cities besides the New Jerusalem in the coming kingdom of God?
- Perfect forever marriage

- Everything you ever dreamed of for an earthly romance will be eternally fulfilled in heaven. Sexual pleasure in the most holy of earthy matrimonyes will be eclipsed by the splendor and joy of our heavenly relationship with Christ. See Eph.5:32; Song of Solomon; Israel referred to as Christ's bride; Jesus referred to as the bridegroom; The apostle Paul's desire to present the Corinthian Christians to Christ as pure virgins (II Cor.11:2).
- Former things will not come to mind (Isa.65:17)
 - This does not mean our memories will be wiped out; Rom.8:18; Mt of Transfiguration.
 - Rich man remembered Lazarus and his life on earth (Luke 16); The martyrs of Rev.6:9-11 are in heaven, yet fully aware of their own martyrdom that took place while living on earth, as well as the martyrdom of their fellow brothers and sisters still living on earth. "Heaven's joy is not dependent upon an erased mind, but a renewed mind." (Randy Alcorn, In light of Eternity," p.87).
 - Malachi 3:16...A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name.
- God will dwell with us
 - Rev.21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is among the people, and he will dwell with them."
 - "I am more glorious than my creation."

A new day is dawning for those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, a forever world where there is no longer death, mourning, crying or pain. There are no accidents, ambulances, firemen, doctors, hospitals, assisted living facilities, undertakers, funerals, funeral homes, or cemeteries. There are no retarded, cripple, maimed, blind, or bruised. No bug spray, antiseptics, antibiotics, aspirin, Excedrin, Advil, Motrin, Visine, sunscreen, band-aids, bandages, or blood. There are no cavities, root canals, braces, dentures, dentists, or Novocain shots. There are no counselors, psychologists, therapists or mental institutions. There are no police, FBI, CIA, DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration), DIA (Dept. of Intelligence Agency), ATF (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms), no office of homeland security (see Rev.21:27). And let's not forget there will be no Secret Service Agency. There are no terrorists, bombs, bullets, or war. No political parties or elections. No human trafficking, pornography, prostitution, strip clubs, drug addicts, alcoholics, or homeless shelters. No cursing, swearing, or obscene language. No misunderstandings, ill feelings, fights, divorces, lawyers, or courts. No pollution, rust, decay, moths, or mosquitos. No fear, doubt, worry, or perplexity. No hurricanes, tornados, tsunamis, or floods. No cold or heat. No aging, diets, face lifts, fat, skinny, or ugly (all glorious, Daniel 12:3). No struggles, temptation, sin, devil, or demons.

- Never ends
 - Psalm 16:11 You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with ***eternal pleasures*** at your right hand.

It's going to be a perfect world, and it's never going to end!

CONCLUSION

Once again quoting from Randy Alcorn ("In Light of Eternity" p.74 bottom): "The best of earth is a glimpse of heaven, the worst of earth a glimpse of hell. Earth is the in-between world touched by heaven and hell, affording a choice between the two.

