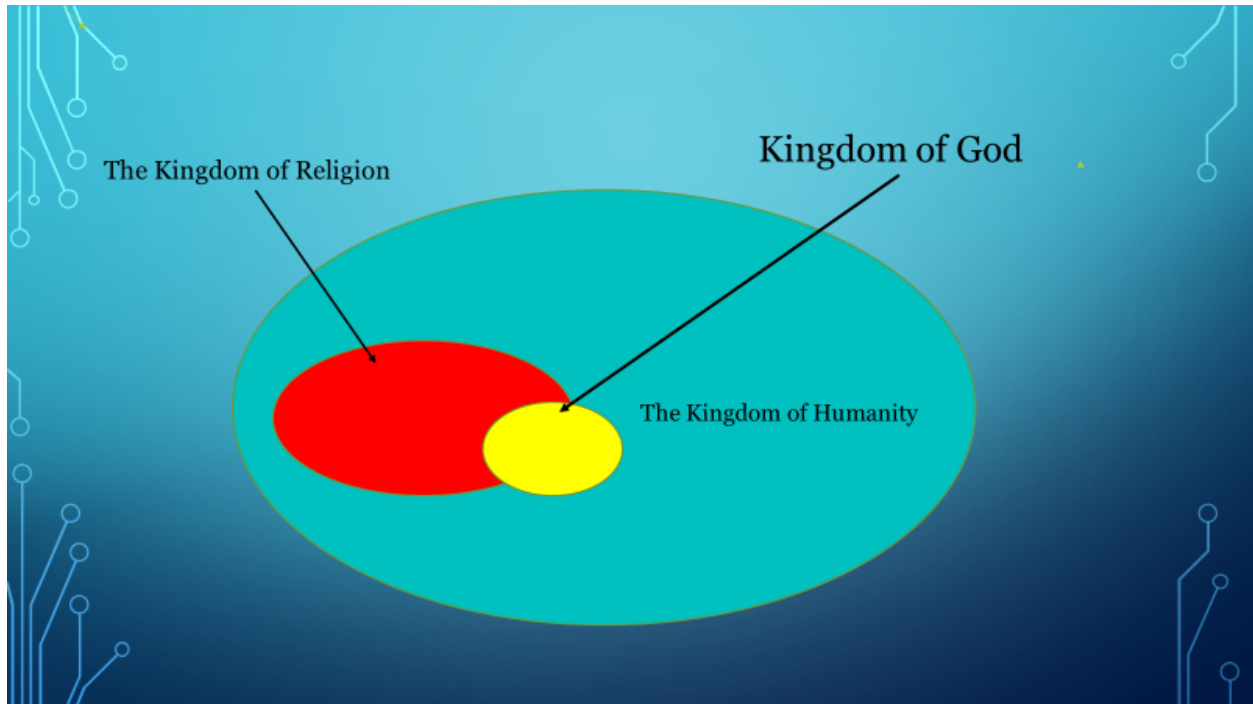


The Gospel of the Kingdom

Illustration on screen-kingdom of humanity, religion, God



We are surrounded by three opposing principles trying to make sense of what we see going on in this world.

The Bible says in the last days Christians will be persecuted and hated of all men and this principle is manifesting itself throughout the world in epic proportions.

Not only are Christians hated because The Bible says they will be hated, but they are hated because we as Christians have been preaching a false Gospel that men naturally reject because it points fingers at the world they are trying to reach and that produces an even greater separation.

What are we going to do? How are we going to handle what is evident before us?

Many Christians, including myself, have been tempted to look at things with an end time mentality: God said all of this was going to happen. There is nothing that we can do about it. It is just going to get worse. One of these days in the not so distant future God is going to end it all because He is coming back again for His church. After He has come for His church He will punish the non believers.

What did Jesus have to say about how we are supposed to handle what is going on?

Joh 17:14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Joh 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

Joh 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

God does not have to take us out of this world in order to deliver us from the evil influence that it has over us.

Joh 17:17 Sanctify (enshrine-enclose them in a bubble) them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

God has designed the truth to be the freeing agent!

Joh 17:18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

God sent Jesus into the world for the specific purpose of manifesting to the world the freedom that comes with knowing the Father intimately. He became a living manifestation of His Father. People were drawn to Him because they could see God in Him. His intimacy with His Father is what got people's attention.

Before Jesus could manifest the God in Him he had to get a revelation of it Himself. He was anointed with the Holy Spirit for that specific purpose.

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." (Acts 10:38)

Jesus had to get his own personal revelation of the glory of God in himself before he could reveal the glory of God in other people.

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: (John 17:1)

That revelation of the glory of God living within Him is what empowered Jesus.

Joh 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

Life eternal is easily imparted to others when we have a powerful revelation of who God is and what He came to do ourselves.

Joh 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Joh 17:4 I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou has given me to do.

We are here to proclaim the truth! The truth is what sanctifies and sets us (mankind) free from the evil in this world.!

Not long ago after I had been listening to the news, I became distressed. It seemed like everything that our nation was founded on was being challenged and things looked very dark.

But God spoke these words to me: This is a great time. What is happening is good because it is going to bring “religion” to the end of itself.

God is going to use this time to change the way the church sees Itself, ...and when the church sees itself the way that God sees the church, the world will respond to the message of the church the way that sinners responded to Jesus. Sinners were attracted to Him. They ate dinner with Him. They did not feel threatened by His presence.

We have had a lot of misconceptions about the way the kingdom operates.

1 Corinthians 2:9-14. Spiritual principle cannot be understood or perceived in the natural.

Going back to the illustration of the three kingdoms:

What is the theme of the Gospel?

It is all centered around God's concept, religions concept and humanities concept of the purpose of life and what will become of us when our life on this earth is over.

It is centered around our concept of heaven/hell.

Religious view: Everything depends upon the choices we make. If we choose to follow God, heaven and eternal life with Him in heaven is our reward. But, if we do not choose him and we don't conform to his ways, God will send us to hell.

Humanities view: I am the center of my own destiny. I have the freedom to do whatever feels good to me with. There is no heaven and there is no hell.

Their view is partially based on their reaction to kingdom of religion's view.

But what is God's view?

John 3:16-17 Jesus came to save the world, not condemn it.

God is not looking at mankind with judgement in mind but with compassion and what is going to happen to those who don't get a revelation of the truth. His desire is that all come to the knowledge of the truth because only knowing the truth can bring freedom.

Things of the kingdom are opened to our view by the Spirit. The kingdom of God is God centered, not self centered. The holy spirit makes us God aware, kingdom of God within aware, God conscious, deliverance conscious.

Where is the kingdom of heaven? Is it a far off place that can only be entered upon death? No! The kingdom of heaven is that place within us where the Holy Spirit makes His home. It is accessed now, in this life.

And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh 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)

It is the place within us where all is well because the Holy Spirit is at work.

For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. (Romans 14:17)

Religion closes off the entrance to the kingdom within:

But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. (Matthew 23:13)

Religion is based on what man must do for God in order to access the kingdom. Everyone falls short of the glory of God by the standards of the law. Romans 3:23

Hell: Is promoted by religion, not God

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell [torment, state of everlasting punishment, condemnation] than yourselves." (Matthew 23:15)

Hell is not God's creation or God's idea. God does not manipulate people with the threat of hell.

Satan is the author:

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. (John 8:44)

Hell is promoted by Satan's lies and a lack of spiritual enlightenment.

Jesus is the deliverer:

"I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell [lack of spiritual understanding, dark place where there is no light] and of death. [separation from God] (Revelation 1:18) brackets in bold have been added. They represent the Greek definitions of the underlined words. .

How we handle what we see going on in the world is vital to the world's deliverance!

We are here to bear witness of the truth!

John 15:22-27

But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause. (John 15:25)

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: (John 15:26) And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning. (John 15:27)

Refer to circle back to the illustration of the three kingdoms:

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves." (Matthew 10:16)"But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues;[Kingdom of religion will come against you] (Matthew 10:17)"And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, [kingdom of humanity will come against you] for a testimony against them and the Gentiles." (Matthew 10:18) brackets mine

Jesus said, if they persecuted me, they will persecute you.

"It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more shall they call them of his household?" (Matthew 10:25)

But don't conform to religion's and the world's pressure!

"But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak." (Matthew 10:19)"For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you." (Matthew 10:20)

Hold your ground, refuse to compromise the message of the Gospel. John 3:16-17 God's sees the world with compassion. He knows that they don't have a revelation of the truth and he wants to reveal himself so that he can deliver them from the power of Satan's lies that is holding them captives of hell.

"What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops." (Matthew 10:27)

The truth will manifest itself!

"Fear them not therefore: for there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known." (Matthew 10:26)

The truth is what will set the world free! The un-compromised truth of who God is and how he does things.

The enemy wants to do more than just physically kill you. He wants to take your soul captive with his lies! Better to die physically than to lose heart and hope!

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matthew 10:28)

The enemy is behind it all! He wants to suck you into his hell hole!

Love your enemies, do good to those who spitefully use you...

Don't react the way the world does to offense.

Jesus never fought back the way the world and religion does.

His eyes were always on His Father.

(Matthew 10:37)"And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. (Matthew 10:38-39)

There are 2 kinds of servants (Christians) in the last days: Matthew 24:44-51

The good servant saw what The Father saw and interacted with people in the world with the Father's compassion in mind.

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? (Matthew 24:45)

The Lord will make him ruler over all his goods

The other was a wicked servant who reacted to what he saw and tried to deal with it the world's way and he lost his peace and his witness.

But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of, And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 24:48-51)

Jesus preached the Gospel of the kingdom-Mark 1:15 Passion Bible -His message was this: "At last the fulfillment of the age has come! It is time for the realm of God's kingdom to be experienced in its fullness! Turn your lives back to God and put your trust in the hope-filled gospel!

God is ready to manifest himself through his church in a powerful way. It is not as bad as it looks if we look at the scope of things with the power of God in mind.

Romans 5:20 where sin abounds my grace abounds even more

Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world

And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: (Daniel 11:32)

Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; (Isaiah 55:3)