

## The Kingdom of God, the Community as God Imagines It V

When the Hebrew children left Egypt Yahweh guided them from being just a people to becoming a nation, a new community and kingdom. They were to establish a new community, a kingdom in the earth as it is in Heaven.

*“The Kingdom of God is the community as God imagines it”*

**KJV Matthew 6:9** After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. <sup>10</sup> **Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.**

Followers of Jesus are to pray and work towards the kingdom to come and His will (desire) to be done in earth as it is in Heaven, *the community as God imagines it.*

*What is a vision for the community as God imagines it?*

**Matthew 5-7** speaks of life in the Kingdom!

**Matthew 5:13-16** speaks of how we are to live in the world!

We are to be salt and light!

- Salt is direct influence.
- Light is quiet influence.

How do we advance the Kingdom of God in Perilous times?

- *Be salt and light!*

I

We must have proper relationship with the world.

Jesus prayed we will not be taken out of the world.

***KJV John 17:15*** I pray not that thou shouldest take **them out of the world**, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

Jesus said we are not of the world.

*We are “not better, just different.”*

***KJV John 17:16*** They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Jesus sends us into the world.

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

Though we are sent into the world we are not to love the world neither things in the world.

***KJV 1 John 2:15*** Love not the world, neither the **things that are in the world**. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

- *We are “In the world, but different from the world.”*
- *We are “Sent to the world, without loving the things of the world.”*

## II

Light is compared to good works.

Good works are unto God, for humanity and produce glory to God.

***KJV Matthew 5:16*** Let your light so shine before men, **that they may see your good works**, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Our motivation is not to be seen by men.

***KJV Matthew 6:1*** Take heed that ye **do not your alms before men, to be seen of them**: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. (Benevolence)

***KJV Matthew 6:5*** And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: **for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men**. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. (Prayer)

We don't seek men's awards, compliments and attention.

We seek to glorify God with our life.

*KJV* ***John 15:8*** Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

### III

Our kingdom is a kingdom of light, and ***good works***.

We have been ***conveyed*** from darkness to the kingdom.

*KJV* ***Colossians 1:12*** Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet 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 our kingdom we do good work and bear fruit if a redeemed life.

*KJV* ***Ephesians 5:8*** For **ye were sometimes darkness**, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: <sup>9</sup> (For **the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;**) <sup>10</sup> Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

*MSG* ***Ephesians 5:8*** You groped your way through that murk once, but no longer. You're out in the open now. The bright light of Christ makes your way plain. So no more stumbling around. Get on with it! <sup>9</sup> **The good, the right, the true—these are the actions appropriate for daylight hours.** <sup>10</sup> Figure out **what will please Christ, and then do it.**

Let's be God fearing and pleasing people!

Let's bear the fruit of good works.

Let's be Salt and Light.

- Salt is d**irect** influence.
- Light is q**uiet** influence.

*Rhema Christian Center  
Bishop La Fayette Scales  
Saturday & Sunday, May 27 & 28, 2023  
9:30 a.m.*