

THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

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"AND JESUS WENT ABOUT ALL GALILEE, TEACHING IN THEIR SYNAGOGUES, AND PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM, AND HEALING ALL MANNER OF SICKNESS AND ALL MANNER OF DISEASE AMONG THE PEOPLE" - Matthew 4:23.

Observe that Jesus preached "the Gospel of the Kingdom," not the Gospel of the Church. The healing of the people by His mighty power, and by the power of God through the disciples was a preparation of Israel for a new age which was just about to dawn. Immediately after Jesus was crucified and taken back to heaven, the Holy Spirit was poured out and a new age was introduced. Apparently it was the Millennial Age, which it would have been if Israel had received Jesus then as their Messiah. For several years the mighty miracle working power of God, which will grace the beginning of the Millennium, was displayed. Until God showed them differently, the apostles believed that the reign of Christ was due and that He would return immediately. But the Jewish nation rejected Christ; therefore, He had to postpone His coming to reign. Instead thereof, this Church Age, like a vast parenthesis, was introduced.

Now, what Jesus and His disciples wrought before Pentecost is again before us on a far larger scale. The "greater works, which He foretold, are being accomplished. As their ministry prepared Israel and the world for an earnest of the Millennial period so His ministry today, through representatives is preparing the people for the actual soon-coming Millennial age the new age of which we hear so much said. Today, many are preaching "the Gospel of the Kingdom" rather than the Gospel of the church. Comparatively few are really looking for and qualifying for translation; and many, who are expecting translation, also expect to return and reign on the earth.

I want to emphasize this fact, that Jesus did not preach the Gospel of the Church. He did not declare the doctrine of "the high (upward) calling"- and of "the heavenly Kingdom"; neither did the twelve apostles, even after Pentecost. It was not then time for that message. That was left for Paul, who should bring on the stage another line of Gospel ministers. Jesus announced the Gospel of the Kingdom of God on earth; for His message was preeminently to an earth-dwelling people, who entertained terrestrial hopes and glory. Peter, James and John also preached that same kingdom Gospel, and no other; for they knew no other. This Church Gospel was a secret "hid in God," and afterward revealed to Paul - Eph. 3:9. God confirmed the ministry of Jesus and of the apostles by granting "mighty signs and wonders" - Romans 15:19.

"Jesus went about all Galilee." "Galilee" means "circuit"; hence, it represents the world, or at least where God has a people. Through His Spirit-filled ministers, Jesus Christ has been going everywhere the last few years working "mighty signs and wonders," getting the people ready for His advent and thousand-year reign. At this point, consider a remarkable statement of our Lord's: "Verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of Man come" - Matt.10:23. That was fulfilled; for He was transfigured before them sometime afterward - Matt. 17:1-8. But, that transfiguration was

"the power and coming" of Jesus in type, as II Peter 1:16-18 shows plainly. Now mark this and marvel: The verse before (Matthew 10:22) proves that Jesus spoke of the end of this age; for He said, "He that endureth to the end shall be saved," which identical words He uttered in His end-time address..... Matt. 24:13. Furthermore, if His transfiguration was typical of His revelation then also those local cities were typical of saint-inhabited cities today throughout the world. As they failed to reach all the cities of Israel before His transfiguration; likewise, before all the modern cities of Israel can be reached with the Kingdom Gospel, the Lord will have come. It is a common thing to read or hear saints exclaim, "We must hurry and give the Gospel to the world before Jesus comes."

"Healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people." You may believe me or not: but the great majority of Pentecostal preachers are emphasizing the Kingdom message. I repeat it: their message is "the Gospel of the Kingdom." They little understand Church truth. They little comprehend the purpose and plan of God concerning the Church, the Body of Christ. They little know what it means to be joined to Christ and be actually one with Him. I dare say that this is a strange doctrine with most of them. The oneness of Christ with His people what a precious truth! But who grasps it? Therefore, the precipitation of Pentecostal power and the healing of the sick are the supreme task with the ministers generally. They are fitting men for the advent of the Lord.

"His fame went throughout all Syria." Syria represents the Gentile world. In like today the fame of Jesus, as the all-sufficient Healer of men's bodies is spreading worldwide. Truly He deserves the honor. God will see to it before the awful judgments fall upon the world, that men will find absolutely no excuse for rejecting His dear Son. "And they brought unto Him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and He healed them." Is that not what is happening today? Are they not bringing to the famous evangelists all those who are sick of divers diseases and torments? And are they not being cured?

Oh, I praise God, that the same mighty works are being wrought today as in the beginning. That is why Paul wrote us saying, "Notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice," - Phil. 1:18. Whatever the motive of the preacher may be, if he preaches Christ, let us rejoice. If he calls the attention of the people to Jesus Christ even by announcing only part of the Gospel, we ought to rejoice. When we consider that in the pulpits today ministers stand and blaspheme God and His Son and His Word, belittle the atonement, set aside the inspiration of the Scriptures, deny the Deity of Jesus Christ and His resurrection, and when we know that so-called Christian ministers blasphemously insult and reject the Holy Spirit we should be glad that there are some who still hold fast to the fundamentals and preach Christ sufficiently to get men saved and healed in the body.

"And there followed Him great multitudes." He fed as many as fourteen thousand at one meeting. This explains why large companies gather to hear some men today. That was a picture of the end-time. God's infinite grace is back of it all to bring this wicked age face to face with the mighty Redeemer, Savior, and Physician before the end comes. This explains the phenomenal success of some world-famed evangelists. They preach Christ as the Savior from sin, sickness, and hell, in view of the soon-coming of Him whose right it

is to reign. God seems to wink at some of the methods which they use methods that more spiritual workers could not employ. He takes advantage of every providence to attract a lost world to His dear Son, that men may be saved and escape the terrible things that are about to envelope this world. Oh! Wondrous grace! Oh! Boundless love!

There are many false prophets and remedies and false healers everywhere. Do you wonder that God is moving men to sound out the Name of Jesus, the only Name that can save and heal? Jesus only is the true Emancipator. He will not arise from somewhere. He was raised nearly two thousand years ago. He will come from Heaven, flashing forth like the lightning. "The Lord Jesus shall be revealed from Heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" - II Thess. 1:7,8.

A NEW PROGRAM IN DISGUISE

Jesus did not always address large gatherings. Now and then He spoke to a select company, invariably very small. Near the end of HIS career, He intimated a different order of things. What did Jesus mean by "My Church"? - Matthew 16:18. Mary and Martha are figures of two grades of believers in evidence today - Luke 10:38-42. What is the meaning of Mary sitting at Jesus' feet learning "His Word"? A later visit with Martha and Mary plainly pictures the heavenly banquet which we hope soon to enjoy - John 12:1-9.

Likewise, there are those here now who preach, not along the Gospel of the Kingdom of God on earth or Christ's reign with Israel over the nations; but they preach also the Gospel of "His heavenly Kingdom" (II Tim. 4:18), "the high (or upward) calling of God" (Phil.3:14), "the Gospel of the glory" (I Tim.1:11 RV). They expect to meet the Lord "in the air" and sit with Him on His "throne set in Heaven" - Rev. 4:1,2. Some saints do not expect to return from Heaven and sit on a throne in Jerusalem in Palestine. They hope to occupy the "new Jerusalem," and reign "over" the earth through other believers who will be under them in Christ.

Accordingly, the Gospel of Jesus Christ in its fullness brings far more than salvation from sin and healing for the body. It brings more than the Pentecostal anointing and power from on high. Yes, it means far more than receiving the various gifts of the Spirit ... the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, the gifts of healing, the working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues. None of these nor all of them together are the sufficient test of growth in grace and of the knowledge of God and of deep spirituality. Nor will such saints obtain the highest reward. Suffering with Christ is the price of rulership.

When the Latter Rain fell and people were being filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues, it was thought that they were then perfect and full-grown. We supposed that we had reached the pinnacle of the possibilities of grace. Alas! Very soon we found that, though we were endued with power from on high, we were only babes in Christ. We had only received a new spring suit (proof of Christ's resurrection), and were dressed up to go to school. We were ready for the primary department and began to take lessons from our heavenly Tutor, the Holy Spirit. Oh, glory to God! A deep longing was awakened in

some of us to know the Scriptures, and thereby "grow in grace, and in knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" - II Peter 3:18.

As we went on to study the Word, we saw that so it was in the beginning of this age. First, many people were filled with the Spirit and mighty miracles were wrought, and all were looking for the Lord to return and set up His Kingdom. But there came a radical change in the great panorama. Another scene, hitherto unknown, was soon enacted. Another group of actors was brought upon the stage. The Great Director arrested a man enroute for Damascus, called him aside for a private course of training, and set him on the stage as the chief actor with an entirely new play. That man was Saul of Tarsus the chief of sinners, who afterward was known as Paul the chiefest apostle - I Tim. 1:15; II Cor. 11:5; 12:11.

Therefore, that same Paul commenced to teach that Christ is the Head of His Body which is the Church, and that the Church is the fullness of Christ, and that Christ and the Church "fill all things." He taught that in Christ dwells "all the fulness of the Godhead bodily," and that God Almighty dwells in His people by the Holy Spirit during this age. Then we saw that the Holy Spirit was given to us to guide us "into all truth" and show us "things to come." The Holy Spirit was given to unfold unto us the Word of God that we might "grow up into Him (Christ) in all things," because God had planned that a company of saints should constitute the Bride of the Lamb.

But before there could be this Bride, there must be a Body, just as in the case of Adam and Eve. Eve was a rib "builded" out of Adam' s side. A deep sleep came on Adam, and God performed the first operation that was ever performed on a human being. He took a rib out of Adam' s side and builded that rib into a woman. That woman became Adam' s wife, his bride. I want you to notice: God did not constitute Adam' s whole body a wife. He just used a rib.

People are teaching that the whole Church is the Bride of Christ. If that type means anything, it contradicts such teaching. Note another illustration from the Word, which shows that the whole Church is not the Bride of Christ. In a family are husband and wife, father and mother, and children. A large family has many children. Here is a man that is looking for a throne. He is also looking for a wife, for a king needs a queen. Does he marry all the girls in that family? No! One is enough for him. They are all in the family, one family; btr he selects one woman out of that family and she becomes his bride. Just so, here is the family of God, "the household of God," "the household of faith." Jesus Christ is going to choose a company that will constitute His Bride; but He will not marry the whole family of God. Do you see now how sensible that is? It is Scriptural; that is why it is sensible. Not all the children in a family are of marriageable age. Sometimes they lack wifehood qualifications, even though they are old enough. It is just like that in God' s family. Jesus will certainly not marry a babe. None that are loose in their habits, selfish in their living, worldly or carnal in their walk, cold and distant toward Him in their fellowship, and critical in their spirit toward other saints none such need expect to be in the Bridehood of the Lamb. Most surely they will be disappointed.

Furthermore, the Church, the body of Christ has a different destination than the citizens of the Kingdom on earth. The citizens of the earthly Kingdom of God will dwell on the

earth. To them, God has promised "a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness" - II Peter 3:13. But the citizens of the Church shall dwell on high. They shall enjoy the "new heaven," of which "the New Jerusalem" will be the capital city. Ours is "the high calling (or upward calling) of God in Christ Jesus" - Phil. 3:14. That is, we are called to go up. We are not called to stay on the earth. That is why Peter and James in their writings never speak of the translation of the saints, nor of the glory on high. They wrote especially to people who shall dwell on earth. They never speak of our union with Christ, nor of our wealth in Him. They write nothing of Bridal hopes nor relationships. Confusion reigns in Bible study where these facts are not observed.

My friends, this will explain to you why there are so many companies of believers on earth and why they do not seem to agree and get along well together. It is something like an incident of which I heard. A widower with several children wedded a widow who had several children. To this newly married couple, other children were born. One day the wife exclaimed very excitedly, "Husband, your children and my children are quarreling with our children." That is the way it is in Christendom. There are different sets or grades of children. Yet, they all belong to the same great family, "The household of God." It seems like the saints fight and bite one another, and that they cannot agree. They fail to "see eye to eye." James said, "Brethren, these things ought not to be." But the Holy Spirit made Paul to know that so it would be, because some will not seek the Lord with all the heart.

I want to tell you that the people who really are filled with the Holy Spirit and under His tutorage fill up on the Word of God, according to Paul' s doctrine. These people understand all other grades of Christian experience, because they are seated in the heavenlies and believe it. If you want to look all over the city and see all the skyscrapers and the factories of Kansas City, just get in an aeroplane and go up a few hundred feet and look down. Well, that is just the way it is in this spiritual realm. Some saints have learned by Paul' s writings, that they are seated in the heavenlies in Christ. By faith they accept it. That is why in Colossians we read this Scripture: "If ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances?" That implies that we are not living on earth, we are living in Heaven raised up together and seated together with Christ Jesus in the heavenlies. We look at things as God looks at them. Though we are not there in our bodies, we are there in our spirits by faith. Instead of sitting down here and looking up, we are up there and looking down; and we understand what is going on. "He that is spiritual judgeth (discerneth) all things" - I Cor. 2:15.

I want you to know that I understand something of what is going on in Christendom. I am little and unknown, as far as this great world of Christianity is concerned; but I know what is going on. I understand the signs of the times, and by this Book I am able to tell what is coming to pass and just about when it is going to come to pass.

That is the profit now of being seated in the heavenlies. It is wonderful when we grow up into Christ and are led by the Spirit of God and get our teaching and training from this Book. It is wonderful how we can locate other Christian people. We classify them instinctively. Their speech betrays them. We are not with them very long, we do not read much of their writings, till we know in what class they belong. We cannot help ourselves.

Discernment is instinctive. A rose smells differently from a lilac, and both of them differently than a potato blossom; and you cannot help noting the difference. I say it humbly, not critically men in the Lot class cannot understand us. Why not? Because they live on too low a plane. They reject the Gift of the Spirit; or, if they receive Him, they fail to walk in the Spirit and conform to God' s Word. They do not "grow up into Him (Christ) in all things" - Eph. 4:15.

Some even admit that they are still babes in Christ, as if that were humility; whereas, the Word rebukes those who are always babes. "For the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the Word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil" - Hebrews 5:12-14. "He is a babe" ... even though he claims to be a teacher. It is to be feared that the land abounds with ministers, who are yet only prattling babes. They ought to be what they are supposed to be; namely, "teachers." But, because they are only milk-bottle Christians, they have need that one teach them what are the elements of the beginning of "the oracles of God." That is, they need "milk" instead of "solid food." What a shame!

Such believers are so ignorant of the Truth that they do not know that they are infants; or they refuse to yield absolutely unconditionally to the Spirit of God. They turn away from the Word when they read it or hear it. When we surrender absolutely to God and let the Spirit have His full way in our lives, then He begins to lift us up and illuminate our minds. As we continue to yield to Him He leads us on. The higher up we go in the scale, the smaller our company; until finally it culminates in Jesus Christ and His Bride. Jesus will have the highest place; yet there is a company of believers joined so closely with Him, which is His Bride, that will share all His glory. They are the ones that understand what is going on now on the earth. It is just wonderful. We need to be charitable toward people that do not see what we see. We need to pray for them. We see things that the majority of Christians do not see. God has not revealed it to them. Often they are to blame, because when He has revealed light to them they have refused to walk in it. When God gives us a ray of light, if we walk in it, He gives us another and then another ray of light. If He gives you a ray of light and you turn away from it, you probably will not get another ray of light tomorrow, because each ray of light prepares for another step. I am so glad that God has revealed all His truth to us, and we can preach the same Gospel that the Kingdom "gospelizers" preached, but far more. We believe in the fundamentals. We agree with the fundamentalists. They preach the grace of God as to the fundamentals ... the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, and the resurrection. We agree with them; but we go way beyond all those things. Every house has a superstructure as well as a foundation. We take in more and give out more. The building must be complete and perfect. We ought to be glad that God has showed us more; not be angry at them that He has done it. Praise the Lord!

To which company do you belong? Are you chiefly interested in the things of the kingdom on earth, or in the heavenly Kingdom? What are your aspirations to do and see big things accomplished here, or to know and have fellowship with the Big Man in the glory? Which do you love most ... ripened grain, or "the Lord of the harvest"? What is

your supreme desire ... to see many Christians, or to see Christ? What is your highest ambition to win men to Christ now, or to gain Christ as your "exceeding great reward" in the glory? What is your eternal hope simply to be saved from hell, or to dwell with Christ in glory? Do you want to be with the vast throng who shall wave palms of victory, or with a smaller group who shall wear crowns of gold? Do you long only to stand before the throne in Heaven? Or are you yearning to sit with the King of the ages and reign as His Queen conjointly with Him forever?

THE END