

WALKING OUT HIS WORD EACH DAY

The I Thessalonians Series #17

June 3rd, 2018

TEXT: I Thessalonians 5:1-11

CONSIDER THIS: We are trying to “catch-up” to the Thessalonian Christians who had received personal instruction from Paul concerning the **Day of the Lord**. How they must have marveled as the Apostle Paul, an Old Testament scholar, explained the future kingdom of Christ to them. In order for Grace Community Church to also marvel we are asking these 6 important questions about the kingdom (we covered 1-2 last week!):

1. What is the Kingdom?
2. How will the Kingdom come into existence?
3. Who enters and populates the Kingdom?
4. What will it be like to live in the Kingdom?
5. If Christians are in Heaven, will they participate in the Kingdom?
6. What about Satan’s attempt to overthrow this Kingdom in Revelation 20:7-9?

QUESTION 3: WHO ENTERS AND POPULATES THE KINGDOM?

- A) The establishment of Jesus Christ’s earthly millennial kingdom occurs immediately after the worldwide judgment of unbelievers at the second coming of Christ. This takes place at the end of the 7 year tribulation when Christ comes to rescue Israel. All unbelievers are taken away in judgment.
- 1) Vast numbers of unbelievers are with the Anti-Christ as he seeks to destroy Israel militarily (Zechariah 12:8-9). They are destroyed when the Anti-Christ is defeated (Revelation 19:19-21).
 - 2) The remaining unbelievers worldwide are taken in judgment as Jesus said in Matthew 24:36-41.
- B) The two groups of believers who have survived the tribulation will enter on day one of the 1,000 year kingdom.
- 1) The Jewish people who have, as a unified nation, wonderfully turned to Jesus in faith, acknowledge Him as Messiah, Savior and King (Zechariah 12:10; 13:1; Romans 11:25-27).
 - 2) Gentiles who trusted Jesus during the tribulation and refused to follow the Anti-Christ (Zechariah 14:16).

They will still be in their natural physical bodies and the population of the kingdom will greatly increase during the 1,000 years to come.

QUESTION 4: WHAT WILL IT BE LIKE TO LIVE IN THE KINGDOM?

- A) Jerusalem will be the capital of the world and Jesus, the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, will reign on David’s throne (Isaiah 9:6-7).

- B) There will be a very active spiritual life centered around the Feast Days and sacrifices (Zechariah 14:16). NOTE: In the Old Testament these things pointed ahead to what Jesus would do on the cross. During the Millennial Kingdom, they will look back upon the finished work of Christ as a memorial, similar to the concept of our communion/Lord's Supper (I Corinthians 11:23-26).
- C) Justice will always prevail. Righteousness is honored and rewarded, unrighteousness is punished (Isaiah 11:1-5). Watching the evening news will not be infuriating!

NOTE: The residents of the kingdom are still fallen human beings, just like we are today. Not all the children born to the original kingdom residents will be followers of Christ. How remarkable it will be to see, for the only time in earth's history, perfect governance by a perfect Ruler! Never again will people ask "why do the wicked prosper?" (Psalm 73:2-14)

- D) Conditions in the physical world will be wonderful. Crops will prosper (for the righteous = Zechariah 14:17-19). Extreme health is normal (Isaiah 65:20-25). The curse of Genesis 3 is not completely gone (that is reserved for Heaven = Revelation 22:1-5) but its effects are greatly reduced.
- E) Because Jesus is King of the world, war is abolished. Conflicts between nations are settled peacefully. See Isaiah 2:1-4 and consider the economic benefits of no government spending on defense budgets.

NOTE: As we study life in the future kingdom it sheds light on the dynamics in play when Jesus was on earth and the historical record of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Fervor for the Messiah and His Kingdom was intense, as was hatred of the Roman Empire. Yet the people could not see how unprepared their own hearts were (Luke 19:41-44).

QUESTION 5: IF CHRISTIANS ARE IN HEAVEN, WILL THEY PARTICIPATE IN THE KINGDOM?

- A) Every Christian who has preceded us in death is with the Lord Jesus in Heaven right now (Philippians 1:21-23).
- B) After the rapture of the church into Heaven there will be the Bema seat judgment (I Corinthians 3:10-15; II Corinthians 5:10). Only then will we be ready to reign with Him as His co-heirs.
- C) The Bible seems to indicate that we (Christians of the Church Age) will be given the privilege of serving in the "King Jesus Administration" (see Matthew 19:27-28; I Corinthians 6:2; Revelation 2:26-27; 5:9-10; 20:6).

He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

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