

John Newlin Ministries, Inc.

- realizing the power of a life in Christ-

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FUNDAMENTALS OF JESUS AND HIS IMMINENT RETURN – PART FOUR

BASIC TRUTHS

“the government shall be upon his shoulder...”

- (from Isaiah 9:6)

“Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end...”

- (from Isaiah 9:7)

As we approach the return of the Lord and see an increasingly difficult world in which to live and a huge operation of the evil one permeating seemingly every aspect of world life, it is time for each of us to recognize basic truths. We talk about all this a lot, using all kinds of religious words and prophecies and songs and prayers. But here we are now near the key event following Jesus' first coming. So let's look at some basics we need to be aware of and comfortable with.

IT REALLY IS A KINGDOM! IT IS A GOVERNMENT AND AN ABSOLUTE MONARCHY!

Yes, the Kingdom of God is a kingdom. God the Father has put everything under Jesus' feet. Jesus is the head of the body and we are his body. Believers in Jesus are members of the Kingdom and as such even now have several positions, such as citizen of the Kingdom, ambassador of the Kingdom, soldier of the Kingdom. Our CD *KINGDOM!* covers all that and more, as well as our television programs on this subject on our web site.

As a citizen in the Kingdom you have expectations. The King takes care of you. And he does. There are all sorts of promises in the Bible relating to health and provision and so on. The King is your source. Well, if you are a believer in Christ, you already know that. And as an ambassador, as the Bible says, it is as if God were making his appeal through you.

When the Kingdom of God comes to earth in force and physical reality, Jesus is not going to ask your opinion on a subject. He knows the right answer and what to do. He is the king. It is not a democracy. While we may fill a role, we will have no vote.

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FAITH IN JESUS IS NOT A RELIGION

It is participation in a government, the kingdom of God. It is the proper relationship for a citizen of the Kingdom to the King, who is your absolute source and provider of all things. It is also the only acceptable relationship to him.

Jesus never referred to belief in him as a religion. That is all man's doing. Man has developed countless false religions and has called belief in Jesus a religion. But really, there is God – Father, Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit – and there is the bevy of angels God has created and then all us people. For centuries people have lived and learned or not learned all sorts of things. And a few have come to know Jesus truly, and to move into the Kingdom. Now that Kingdom is coming this way in force. It certainly is not everywhere on earth today.

As Jesus returns soon to earth, the people of earth – the believers in Jesus as well as the huge numbers of non-believers – will learn only too well what they seem to never have grasped. Jesus is not about religion. The Bible is not about religion. God created everything. God the Father has put Jesus at his right-hand and has put all things under Jesus' feet. Jesus is the head of the body, and the CHURCH (those who truly believe in Jesus) is his body. There is no name higher than Jesus, ...other than of course God the Father. But then, God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are all one, as Jesus said.

All these other religions are false. They are a pathway to the outer darkness. They are a door to an eternity separated from God. They are filled with misguided people, serious and sincere in many cases, but still in error. This is not to say there is not a spiritual aspect to some of these false religions. Remember, there are a lot evil spirits out there. How do you think some of these false religions came into being? And this certainly adds some explanation for the highly evil nature of some components of these false religions, like the terrorists of our day.

THE BIBLE IS NOT A RELIGIOUS BOOK

It is a book of the government of God. It contains the fundamental absolute truths of God, the laws, the rules, and much history full of accounts and stories that instruct and give insight into the ways of God, how he operates, and what he expects. It is the book of the Kingdom of God.

Again, there is no Christian "religion." That is a man-made term. There is just recognition of who Jesus is and accepting him as your Lord. There is establishing your relationship with him, which gives you a place in the Kingdom of God. Jesus never described a Christian "religion." He just presented the truths of God and told people how they could be in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus described clearly how to get into the Kingdom in his discussion with Nicodemus in John 3. Paul too described how to do that in Romans 10:9. And in so many other places the Bible just makes the point of the necessity of belief in Jesus, where as I have said so many times before, that word belief is a strong word, not our current day mild word. The Biblical word belief here is the same as saying I am staying in this room because I believe there is enough oxygen here to keep me alive. In other words, you absolutely know there is enough oxygen. No doubt. No confusion.

Soon, very soon, as in a few days, months, years – we don't know specifically – the Lord is returning. And you and I want to be in a right relationship with him when he does.

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THE CURRENT ENVIRONMENT ON EARTH: LOOK AT ALL THAT IS HAPPENING IN THE USA

So here we are awaiting the imminent return of the King and realizing clearly that he is indeed the King of all kings, the head of an absolute monarchy called the Kingdom of God. What is the status of things on earth today?

In the past we have focused on so many of the prophecies of things to happen before Jesus' return in these last days, and how they have happened. The reestablishment of Israel, for example, and the takeover of Jerusalem by the Jews, and the ingathering of the Jews into Israel. And so much more. You can read an extensive list in our August 2013 newsletter, a copy of which is in the archives on our web site.

But now we are well into what I think are really deep signs being fulfilled before the return. In three places, Mark 13:5, Matthew 14:4, and Luke 21:8, Jesus replies to the disciples' asking him about the signs of his return. The very first words out of his mouth, his first warning to them, is to watch that they not be deceived. **DECEPTION!** It is rampant in our day. The list below contains examples of lies and deception, and it is everywhere in the world.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:3, Paul replied to a people fearful they had missed the day of the Lord. He says that that day will not come until the "rebellion" occurs and the man of lawlessness is identified. That word rebellion in the original Greek comes from the root of our modern word "apostasy." It is a rebellion against God, a real serious rejection of God. I would suggest to you we are living in the midst of that. No doubt it will get worse. The USA is full of people accepting life styles and behaviors that are opposite to God. .

And then look at the comprehensive and frightening 2 Timothy 3:1-5, where Paul describes the people of the last days. You should look that up. We are highly populated with such people, are we not?

It surely does not appear that this confused country and world can continue much longer in its current trajectory as it descends to an increasingly unlivable state. Just consider a few examples. There are many more in all aspects of society.

- The maniacal role of political correctness, where unfortunate individuals selected by the "pc police" are attacked and excoriated for words they have said and increasingly people are concerned with what they can and can't say. Related to this we have recently seen the Home and Garden television network cancel a project involving two brothers after it was brought to their attention that the two brothers are conservative Christians who have spoken out against abortion and homosexuality. In other words, they were punished for being believers. There are other similar examples in our modern society that you likely are aware of.
- The incessant lying in our government circles, where untruths are spoken in the face of absolute evidence to the contrary. Look at the Benghazi affair, one of the most shameful in American history where the country's government refused to take steps to protect its ambassador and staff and lied about what happened afterwards. To this date no one has been held accountable for that attack. As the truth comes out, the lies continue and much of the press also continues in an obvious cover-up.
- The end of objective journalism. Will Rodgers would be lost indeed today. He once said all he knew was what he read in the papers. Well, he would know little real truth then if he were alive

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today. Major news networks and newspapers clearly are in the pocket of government leaders and write only from the point of view of constantly backing them regardless of truth and facts.

- The nation steadily moves away from the will of the people to actions based on the whim of the administration and individual interpretations of law by district and appeal court federal judges. They don't represent the people, but they are making many of the laws that count today. For example, the people of California voted in a referendum that marriage is between a man and a woman. But the judicial system saw fit to overturn that, so the opinion of a handful of unelected people overturned the view of millions that voted in that state. Not a democratic system, is it?
- So many of our secular leaders – government, entertainment, media, sports, and other – are now openly calling good evil and evil good. Many Americans are upset about the state of affairs. You can hear that in many forums. But is anyone doing anything about it? How would the founding fathers have acted, I wonder and ponder – people like the Adams, Jefferson, Washington, and so on? They risked everything to deal with injustices.

Much more could be added to the list above, including more dramatic things that I have chosen not to include here. But you should easily get the picture for the secular world. It's not a good one.

PLEASE NOTE! We do ask as always that you prayerfully consider how and whether you should support this ministry. Only a very small percentage of those receiving these newsletters and other materials ever contribute, and to those is our unending gratitude. Just a small contribution by all would mean a great deal and enable us to do more. Without a meaningful increase in contributions, we will soon take steps to reduce current ministry operations and to move on in another area God has also called us to.

Always remember to stay alert. The Lord really is coming soon. May you live in the blessings of God always.

John

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