

Kingdom News

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever... (Matt. 6:13)

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The Increase of His Government

... No End ...

The scriptures teach us many things about the government (or Kingdom) of Jesus Christ. One of my favorite is Isaiah 9:7 "Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end ..." How many governments have these types of bragging rights? Not one. The government of our Lord Jesus will, not only, exist indefinitely. But it will continue to increase, throughout eternity. Wow!!!

Amazing, huh? But what does it mean? Better still, what does it mean to us?

When the Lord teaches us how to pray, He directs us to agree with Him concerning His coming kingdom. Paraphrasing the King James (Matt 6:10) rendering of this petition; we are to pray that the Lord's kingdom be established *in the earth* and that His will be done, *on earth* as it is done in heaven.

Side bar: The term *earth* is often a metaphor for the *hearts of men*.

This is the understanding we'll focus on during this discourse.

As you can appreciate, governmental authority is only effective when established within the hearts and

Increased Government

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The Leadership Corner *Leadership Living, Inc.*

What to Do in 2009?

So, we have come face-to-face with a New Year and in fact a new season (for some religions, the New Year started before January 1st). Surely, there must be a catchy phrase that some Christian has come up with to describe what we, as believers, should expect during this new season. You know what I mean, those phrases like, "More in 2004, Thrive in 2005, Quick in 2006, Heaven in 2007, and Great in 2008." Well, I've been listening, but I haven't heard anything.

Therefore, I will share what God has placed in my heart. He let me know that during this new season of 2009, sincere believers should expect from God what we've always been able to count on...God's faithfulness to move in our lives (and in the environment) according to the principles found in His Word. For example, the word of God tells us that God stands ready to avenge all disobedience when our obedience is fulfilled (II Corinthians 10:6 paraphrased). His word also tells us what to do when our communities are negatively impacted. It says that if believers repent, humble ourselves, and pray, God would heal and restore, in our lives and in our communities (II Chronicles 7:14 paraphrased). We also understand the righteous (not the President) exalts a nation; whereas sin is a reproach to its people (Prov. 14:34 paraphrased).

By these scriptures we see that God does not change

based on what is happening in our world. Yes, there are economic crises, relationship issues, health concerns, etc. But, thankfully God's character and His Word do not change. And, His principles do not change. As a result, we can always count on Him to fulfill His Word when we do our part.

So, here is the call to all believers. We are to align ourselves with what the Word of God defines as our responsibilities, during this season. We are to "step up to the plate," "bite the bullet," or whatever other cliché we want to use.

The people of God need, more so now than ever before, to commit to obey the principles outlined in the Word of God. This means we are to cultivate our relationship with God, and with people that He Has placed in our lives. We are to seek His face and apply His principles to every area of our lives.

The world needs to see God when they look at the people of God. Therefore, as we step into this new season, with a new (and new kind of) political administration in place, we need to align ourselves with the Word of God.

So, what is the slogan or mantra for this new season? Are you ready?

"Align in 2009."

As the people of God we must align ourselves with the principles in the Word of God so that God is free to move mightily in our lives, the lives of our loved ones, and in the earth as never before.

Ok, ready? Let's say it out loud. ***Align in 2009.***

Now, let's do it!



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minds of its citizenry. Otherwise, you have mutiny (whether passive or aggressive). Governmental authority in books, and creeds, means absolutely nothing. Governmental authority in the hearts of a people is invincible, and most forceful.

"...thy kingdom come, thy will be done..." Hhhmm. This type of petition on the lips of ones born into a "Democracy" may seem foreign. Whatever could we mean by asking that the Lord's kingdom come and His will be done? Is that anything like a constituency voting in a new President? We may agree with his social programs and disagree with his foreign policies. Or maybe we'll agree with his position of "environmental causes" and disagree with his stand on educational reform. After all we do have rights? ... Don't we?

Well it's not quite the same as "putting to bed" another presidential campaign season; and going on with your life. To petition the Lord's coming kingdom is very "up close and personal." In a monarchy, the King "owns everything;" policies, people and property. The King sets both the political and moral climate. And believe it or not, one does have choices. In the words of Shakespeare "to obey ... or not to obey ... that is the question," or something like that.

Although most of us have never had the "pleasure" of being governed by a Monarchy; I'm sure we would agree that "submission" would be a great deal more palatable if the King's interests ran somewhat parallel to our own. Well...

In the Kingdom of Our Lord, there is an interesting climate. The Lord is supreme. His Commandments and Laws are set by His Righteousness. They are to be obeyed, with the utmost priority (i.e., non-negotiable). My personal experience, with His governmental dictates, reveals a most intriguing characteristic of His Commandments and Laws. While they certainly honor Him supremely; they also have a reciprocal effect upon the beneficiary. As long as I am aligned with them; as long as they govern my heart; my health and happiness is secure. This is the true emphasis of Shalom, which is comprehensive, holistic, all encompassing peace and prosperity.

Historically, I'm sure you'll find that kingdoms are run primarily based on what is the particular preference of the King. The Kingdom of our Lord is no different, in

that regard. H-o-w-e-v-e-r, and that's a BIG "However." Because the governing principle of the Kingdom of our Lord is *LOVE*; the effects of this government on it citizens are quite different from traditional accounts.

The Lord directs us to request, insist even, that His Kingdom comes and that His will be done in the earth, with the same implicit compliance as exhibited in the heavens. By doing so, He is telling us that this is the only method by which His promises for our lives, and our eternity, can be ensured. Imagine that. Our King says to us, "I know the thoughts that I think toward you, thoughts of Shalom (peace), and not evil ..." (Jer. 29:11 KJV). These are His thoughts on behalf of the citizens of His Kingdom. Who could ask for anything more?

Okay, so what does it mean to petition the coming of His kingdom? It means to assume the appropriate posture of a citizen of the Kingdom. In the Kingdom, Jesus Christ is Lord, there's no mistaking that; His Law rules. What is this Law? Well it is briefly comprehended in this, that we are obliged to love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength; and our neighbor as our self. (Mark 12:30 KJV by reference) All subsequent directives and commandments are herein represented.

When we petition the Lord's coming Kingdom, we essentially agree to be under His government and abide by His laws and commandments. The gate to the Kingdom is represented in John 3:16, for God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son; that whosoever believes on Him, shall not perish but have everlasting life. By this, we are born into the Kingdom. Afterwards, we give priority to seeking to understand the constitution of the Kingdom (i.e., Bible) and our Lord's character (Matt. 6:33 KJV by reference). As we learn and obey, we grow. As our allegiance to His Lordship grows; He increases His revelation of Himself to us.

The nations of the world are drawn to Him, by our representation and our lifestyles (Rom 12:1-2 KJV by reference). Can you see this process unfolding throughout eternity? If so, then you can see how the increase of His government will continue to increase indefinitely; both in us and throughout the nations.

Let's begin our New Year here. May the Peace (Shalom) of God rule in your hearts, throughout 2009.

Let the Dead Bury Their Dead

By David L. White

All scriptures are paraphrased from the King James Bible

In Luke 9:57-62 there is a parable of three men that have an opportunity to follow Christ. They each give various reasons for delaying this journey. Christ's response to the second man is the subject of this discourse.

Jesus told these men; "follow me." One of the men said "Lord, allow me first to go and bury my father." In that time and culture, the burying and mourning the loss of loved ones was a ritual tradition.

Jesus knew of this practice; even so He told this man "let the dead bury their dead." How might you have responded to this statement?

At first glance, this response could seem, well "cold," especially if you take a relational perspective. However, the issue here is one of "following Christ." Now can you see the gravity revealed here in Christ's answer?

This is it; identify the source of your goals. If we have goals that are not from the Lord; they are dead goals, objectives, and plans. I don't believe that Christ is merely referring to dead people in saying "their dead." To see the broader picture we might understand Christ's answer like this, 'let the dead tend to their dead'. Here we can see that it's not merely dead people; He's referring to dead objectives. Let the spiritually dead tend to their dead objectives. People who are alive spiritually don't tend to their own dead objectives; they only tend to Christ's living objectives, kingdom assignments. We Christians should never tend to dead objectives, or nurture dead feelings, or accommodate dead desires. We are to tend to life, edify the living plan of Christ, and bring forth living fruit. You see, our plans (plans that do not have their origin in Christ) are as the dry bones of Ezekiel 37, they have no blood, no flesh, and no life.

On the other hand, Christ's objectives are infused with *blood* and life. "... blood is life..." (Deut 12:23 KJV paraphrased) Our Lord's plans have a pulse, they have heart.

Therefore I admonish you to toss out your own goals for 2009, and ask the Lord what He wants you to do

right now. When you find out, work that thing out with fear and trembling, as if it were your very salvation. You will see that by the time you finish the first task, the Lord will already have other activities awaiting your attention. He will direct your steps. You will not accomplish even one of your own goals, but that's fine since you won't have any of your own.

But I guarantee that you will always touch the very heart of God in His objectives for you.

What better way to spend 2009? < KJV >

JEWELS



You can't love flowers, unless you hate weeds.

And you can't love God, unless you hate sin.

– Anonymous



A Journey to Intimacy

New Season, New Day

My declaration for 2009 (Psalm 1: 2-3 KJV paraphrased)

My delight is in the law of the Lord;

- The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul (Ps 19:7)

In His law do I meditate day and night

- I will meditate in His precepts, and respect His ways (Ps. 119:15)
- His testimonies are my delight and my counselors (Ps 119:24)
- With my hands I will obey His commandments and I will meditate in His

statutes (Ps. 119:48)

I shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of waters

- There is a river, the streams of which make glad the city of God (Ps 46:4)

I shall bring forth fruit in season

- A tree is known by its fruit (Matt. 12:33)
- Every good tree bears good fruit (Matt. 7:17)

My leaves shall not wither

- The leaves of the trees of life are for the healing of the nations (Rev. 22:2)

Whatsoever I do, in 2009, shall prosper

It can be the same for you, too. You choose.

< KJV >

DIAMONDS



Jesus says, "Don't go where *you* want to go. Go where *I* want you to go. Don't be what *you* want to be, be what *I* want you to be."

You'll never know what you could be until you quit being what *you* want to be.

– The late Dr. Jack Hyles



