

Kingdom News

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

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The Plan of Salvation

Beginning and Ending with Him

For God so loved the world...that He gave His only begotten Son. The Son so loved the Father...that He gave His life. God loved...the Son gave...we benefit. We love...we give....He benefits.

The plan of salvation, and our inheritance, is the result of an agreement between the Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. (Ref. Titus 3:3-6; Acts 4:10, 12; Col. 2:9) Willed, designed and implemented within the council of the government of the Kingdom of God. It is important that we know and acknowledge that everything God does, begins and ends with Him. (Reference Rev. 1:8) It must be this way; the law of Righteousness requires it.

God is Righteous, and as Creator and Governor of the universe and all moral agents, as such He is Sovereign. When we talk about moral beings, we're talking about everyone who has within them the capacity to differentiate between right and wrong. This of course, would make God most important in the order of things.

Within the conscience of every person is the knowledge of right and wrong. This is the "law written

Salvation

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The Leadership Corner

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Leading from a Position of Weakness

Have you ever been asked to name your strengths and weaknesses? This usually happens when we apply for jobs; take tests and engage in performance-related activities in our careers. Generally, I don't subscribe to this concept. I'd rather believe that my so-called "strengths and weaknesses" are just character or personality traits that can either benefit me or cost me depending on the situation I'm faced with.

Well, while that's all good and fine, the truth is that we each find ourselves in situations on a regular basis where we are face-to-face with a weakness; in the sense that we can be unprepared, lack experience; risk exposure; lack skill or authority in certain situations.

For example, at the organization where I serve in a Senior Leadership position, a colleague was responsible for coordinating a series of important meetings. He planned the meetings and invited high-profile representative from a regulatory body that governs the organization; and others within the organization. Now on the surface, everything appeared to be okay.

In these meetings, I would be a key contributor, and had jurisdiction over much of the data/information on the topic, for this series of meetings.

The challenge was that my colleague had scheduled the series of meetings during a period of time when I would be, unavoidably, out of the office.

I must admit, the way that this was handled, was very disturbing to me. Nevertheless, I responded in a professional manner and basically I made him aware of the scheduling conflicts and offered new dates and/or times.

Leadership

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Notwithstanding, he declined my suggestions and planned to move forward with the meetings in my absence.

My weakness in this situation was that my colleague holds a more senior position, in the organization. That being the case, it appeared that he didn't feel obliged to accommodate my requests to coordinate the meetings with my schedule of availability. We are taught to cast our cares on God, because He cares for us. I gave the situation to God; there was nothing more I could do.

With no other visible options I determined to have members of my staff represent me in these meetings. While that doesn't seem problematic, the strategic challenge was that during these meetings decisions (that would affect my department) were to be made, without my input. As much as I didn't want to miss the meetings it would not have been beneficial for me to try to change my travel plans, with such short notice. I took my trip.

While I was away, I called the office to touch base with my staff and to learn the outcome of the meetings. I called on the date, of the first scheduled meeting. Much to my surprise, my staff advised me that all of the meetings had been unexpectedly postponed. I don't need to tell you how delighted I was; and quite frankly I was relieved.

I shared this story to illustrate that as leaders we often find ourselves in situations where we have to lead from a place of weakness. And when this happens, as leaders, we are to move forward regardless of our inability to change the situation.

Sidebar: in this instance, "leading" implies directing or guiding a course of events.

We identify the things we can and should control. We relinquish, to God, the things that we cannot or should not try to control. These are opportunities for us to allow God to partner with us in our leadership roles. He has promised to be a very present help. (Ref. Ps. 46:1 KJV)

In this situation God stepped in and did for me what I was unable to do myself. By doing this he reminded me that when I am weak, it is then, that He is strong (on my behalf). This reminds me of what God told Paul regarding his weakness. "In 2 Cor. 12:9, God said to Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you. For my strength is made perfect in weakness. (KJV paraphrased)

It's encouraging because we can understand that even when we are weak or limited, God still shows

his strength in our situation. We simply lay the situation at his feet and he will do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. Isn't that good news?

Until next time...

Leadership Living, Inc.
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in us" as characterized in Romans 2:14-15 (KJV by reference) in Paul's letter to the church in Rome.

He reminded the church at Roman, that the Gentiles did not know the Mosaic Law. Nevertheless, their activities, by nature, conformed to the precepts written in the Law. They were governed by the law that was written in their hearts, their conscience was their judge confirming good works and condemning bad works. And so it is with all moral beings.

Given the fact that God is of primary importance to all of existence, it would follow that first priority in all actions and considerations should be given to Him. Right? You're familiar with this, whether you work in a family-owned business, a local business or a corporation. The person responsible for the whole operation is the person to whom priority and deference is given. In this case, we're talking about the Creator of the universe. All of our actions, efforts, and thoughts should capitulate. Our heart acknowledges this, and God affirms this to be true.

What this means is that it was imperative that God be given preeminence in all actions related to both creation and the plan of salvation (or redemption). The source and intent of these activities terminated on God.

We know that the purpose of salvation was that we should be redeemed to God (Ref. Rev 5:9); by the paying of the penalty of sin, incurred by our father, Adam.

According to Webster's Universal Dictionary & Thesaurus (Tormont, 1993) the word "redeem" means to deliver from sin; to restore to favor; to make amends

for.

Salvation was an act of restoring us to a place of favor with God. Favor in this case, is an opportunity to approach God, through Jesus Christ, to regain fellowship with Him.

What's being said here is that it is of the utmost importance, that we put God in the place of preeminence in our hearts. That we recognize that if there be anything of value to our lives, it will flow from a right relationship with Him. By this recognition we acknowledge that He is worthy of "first-place" in our thoughts, actions and considerations. Meaning that the decisions we make, will result from a consideration of what is most important to Him, as opposed to what we perceive as most important to us.

All of God's work from Genesis to Revelation was so that we would know that He is the Lord God and that we should love Him and worship Him as such.

- ✚ Gen. 17:1 ... I am the Almighty God...
- ✚ Ex. 14:4 ... know that I am the Lord...
- ✚ Lev. 19:37 ... I am the Lord...
- ✚ Num. 10:10 ... I am the Lord your God...
- ✚ Deut. 29: 6 ... know that I am the Lord your God.
- ✚ Judges 6:10 ... I am the Lord your God...
- ✚ 1 Kings 20:13 ... and you shall know that I am the Lord...
- ✚ Ps. 50:7 ... I am God...
- ✚ Isa. 42:8 ... I am the Lord: that is my name: ...
- ✚ Jer. 32:27 ... I am the Lord, the God of all flesh ...
- ✚ Eze. 14:8 ... know that I am the Lord ...
- ✚ Hos. 11:9 ...I am God; and not man ...
- ✚ Joel 2:27 ... I am the Lord your God ...
- ✚ Zach. 10:6 ... I am the Lord their God ...
- ✚ Mal. 3:6 ... I am the Lord, I change not ...
- ✚ Matt. 3:17 ...behold my Son, in whom I am well pleased ...
- ✚ Mk. 1:11 ... my Son, in whom I am well pleased...
- ✚ Luke 3:22 ... Son, in you I am well pleased...
- ✚ John 5:43 ... I am come in my Father's name ...
- ✚ Acts 9:5 ... I am Jesus....
- ✚ Rev. 3:13 ... I am Alpha and Omega ...

When we put God first ... I mean ... when we really ... put Him first in our lives, we find that everything else assumes its appropriate place of priority. (Ref. Rom 8:28; Matt. 6:33; Luke 12:31) We find that all of our

needs are met. (Ps. 84:11)

If things seem to be chaotic in our lives, perhaps we should take a look at our priorities. His promise to us is that if we will honor Him; He will honor us. (1 Sam. 2:30) If you begin with God and His Righteousness, you will end with God and your righteousness.

Our desires and efforts are to be focused on His happiness. <✚✚>

Kingdom Investment

Your Investment in Him, is an Investment in You

In the March 2007 edition of the newsletter, we began our discussion on Kingdom Investments. We talked about what/whom we invest in; who/what is invested in us; why do we care about investments; and what the Kingdom of God has to do with investments.

Contemplations of our relationship to investments and the Kingdom can be a very broad and far-reaching discourse. It affects every facet of our lives; whether or not we acknowledge it. The concept of investing essentially means that we devote or exchange something we "possess" or have control over (money, time, or other resources) for something else. And that, with the intent of profiting. This is what makes investing slightly different from giving.

Conceptually, "giving" is sending out; handing over; or relinquishing without expectation of return or payback. On the other hand, to invest is to exchange for profit or benefit. In a secular economy, the terms can be used interchangeably. In the Kingdom economy the terms are quite different. They are distinguishable by the motives that conceive them. When our motive is to benefit someone or something else without expectation of return; that is giving. When our motive is to receive, gain or benefit; that is investing. Both are valuable and have their place in the Kingdom economy. We are to be knowledgeable in differentiating them. Think of them as volatile

chemicals that need to be handled with care. Generally, with reference to the things of God, you'll not want to confuse their applications; because their application affects their outcomes. There are distinct blessings associated with each. And they should be used in their proper places. The blessing for "giving" is to receive, in good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over. (Translated: to receive in abundance.) The blessing for "investing" is more circumscribed.

You're recall as Jesus taught the disciples, to give or to do good deeds; He said if you give or do good deeds *to be seen of men*, you have your reward. (Matt. 6:1-4 KJV by reference) Essentially, He said, that's your return on investment (ROI); don't expect anything additional from God. Please don't confuse this with giving, because the results can be very disappointing.

The scriptures encourage us to study to receive the approval of God as one who handles His Word (spoken or written) with wisdom. (2 Tim. 2:15 by reference) This is an investment. We invest the time, effort and intention to study the Word of God; to seek out and know the heart of God through His Word. If invested acceptably (not as if constrained or coerced), our return on that investment is that we have the approval of God, as a wise steward of His Word. On the face of it, this may not seem like a worthy "return." No offense, God (smile).

However, as we consider what it means to have the approval of God over our lives, it takes on a whole new system of values for us. When we study the Word of God, our spirit "drinks" in (acknowledges and accepts) the truth of it. And the Lord directs the application of His Word, in our hearts. Often this happens without our noticing any changes or effects; we continue with business as usual. And as circumstance would have it, trouble comes. Because we have become intimate with the Word of God, we immediately recall it. And it becomes, to us, a sword (offensive weapon) to attack; or a shield (defensive weapon) to protect.

For instance, when "everything falls off of the table" as it were, we recognize "that all things work together for good, to those who love God..." (Rom. 8:28 KJV by reference). Although at that time there is no discernable evidence of it, we recognize that anything that does not align itself with (or agree

with) the Word of God, for our lives is a lie. A lie is anything that intends to deceive or mislead. You can always identify a lie, as anything (and everything) that does not agree with the Word of God, on your behalf. For example, the Word of God says that we are more than conquerors, God cannot lie. (Heb. 6:19; 1 John 2:21; Rom. 3:4 by reference)

Any person or circumstance that is diametrically opposed to this truth is, by default, a liar. And since lies/liars are not to be trusted; we resort to the written promises of God, on our behalf. Because we studied the Word of God, we have the authority (having been approved of God) to enact its application in our situation. It is the approval of God that enables the Kingdom principles take authority over circumstances; resolving matters on our behalf. Not sure, if you've made of your mind about this yet, but I'm ALL IN!!! ♦KJV♦

Bite-Sized Wisdom

Food for Thought

The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. (Psalm 19: 7 KJV)



"Justice is aborted when godly men & women do nothing." - Joyce M. White



Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all of your getting get understanding. (Proverbs 4:7 KJV paraphrased)



"When God talks, the wise listen." - Mike Murdoch

SUMMARY

The plan of salvation begins and ends with God. It is made possible by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It is then implemented and propagated by the body of believers. God is the designer and Jesus is the central focus of all the work of the plan of salvation; we are the beneficiaries and heirs of the plan.

As believers and leaders we are obliged to defer to God, when we find ourselves in situations where we must lead from a place of weakness. Or as I like to say, we find ourselves “driving from the back seat.” It is at these times that He proves faithful, once again. He does for us what we cannot do for ourselves, thus partnering with us in our various roles in life.

He teaches us, both, to give and to invest according to Kingdom principles. We learn the difference by studying His Word; and handling it with such wisdom that brings the approval of God on our lives.

Point of Interest

Perhaps by now you have heard that the Center for Disease Control is preparing the nation for a potential Avian Flu Pandemic. Perhaps you are wondering what to do; if or how something like this would affect you and your family. Naturally speaking, there is information on the stages of preparation at the Center for Disease Control website www.cdc.gov. Spiritually speaking, the Lord says that if He allows disease and destruction to arise, and we humble ourselves; pray; seek His face and forsake unrighteousness, He will hear us and heal the land. Pray for the healing of the nations.

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