

The Kingdom of God, pt.6, 8.5.07

The Gospel of the Kingdom

Matt.24.14

Introduction:

- The importance of the Kingdom of God – Jesus’ purpose was to establish the KOG; His death & resurrection assured that the KOG would be established (our sins had to be forgiven & relationship with God restored for the KOG to be reestablished); Def of the KOG – the reign of Jesus in every part of life; we have been given dominion to subdue everything under His Lordship; “on earth as it is in Heaven” is our mandate; Acts 2, 4, 5, 8, 9 & 19 is the model of transformation of “on earth as it is in heaven.”
- We want to see transformation; we become the tools of transformation when we walk in Kingdom authority. We can see transformation now.
- Today’s focus – the message of the KOG

I. Salvation – Matt.24.14; Acts 8.12; 19.8

a. Introduction

- i. Salvation isn’t the only message of the KOG, but it is a core message.
- ii. Broader understanding of salvation than the entry point into the KOG. We talk about being saved & think in terms of asking God’s forgiveness & putting our faith in Jesus. That’s the initial layer of salvation, and there are dozens of layers under it.

1. Like walking up to a castle & being fascinated by the door; never thinking there’s more to the castle than the door. People are impressed, but many walk away b/c they’re wanting more.

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b. Key Historical Concepts of the word “salvation”

- i. Saving – to snatch from peril or evil; deliverance from judicial condemnation; cured from illness;
- ii. Keeping – to protect in a Keep; a seal/brand is placed upon you indicating who you belong to (You're God's possession & if anyone messes with they're messing with God's stuff); Rev.7.3 – 144,000 sealed.
- iii. Benefiting – to care & keep in good health
- iv. Preserving – the inner being; he puts everything in order; made whole.

c. Biblical Usage

- i. Old Testament (Isa.33.21–24; 49.24–26; Joel 2.32)
 - 1. God intervenes; he protects against an oppressor; he wages war against our enemy; he achieves victory for us
 - 2. Complete deliverance from the enemy
 - 3. From God's judgment – Joel 2.32
- ii. The Gospels (Mat.1.21, 14.36; Luke 8.36)
 - 1. Mt.1 – You are to name him Jesus for he will save his people from their sins.
 - 2. Mt.14 – and all who touched him were healed.

3. Luke 8 – the demon possessed man had been healed.

iii. Paul's writings (Ro.5.9–11, 8.30 – NIV)

1. Delivered from approaching wrath –
2. Restored to friendship – relationship
3. This salvation has led to my current glorification – original purpose.
 - a. Humanity reaches the pinnacle of its existence when we are rightly related to the Creator and fulfills our original purpose. It's not that hard to figure out.
 - b. Repeat: I am glorified which means I am restored to both friendship with God and my original purpose.
 - c. Does it mean I walk with full understanding of this glorified state? Not anymore than I walk in the full understanding of my justification. **I know in part, but what I know I embrace.**

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d. Summary of “salvation” – illustrate with helpers.

- i. Negatively – I am delivered from God's wrath & Satan's domain.

ii. Positively – I have been reinstated to my original position and purpose.

II. The Core of “Salvation” – these beliefs are inherent in the NT understanding of salvation.

a. Forgiveness of Sin (Matt.1.21)

i. I am forgiven (Ro.5.15)

1. Over 70% of preaching on the topic of salvation has to do with forgiveness of sin.
2. It’s a critical, but it’s much broader.
3. I stand before God like Adam did before He sinned. There are no barriers between myself & God other than the ones I have.
4. God can’t turn his back on you; He doesn’t relate to us based upon our level of obedience, but upon the blood of His Son. The blood of Jesus guarantees that He will always see me as His friend. If He were to turn His back on you, He’d be turning his back on His Son’s blood.
5. He isn’t a fickle friend either...one day hot & another day cool. He is always passionately, fervently & faithfully in love with you! The blood of His Son covers my bad attitudes, sin, inconsistencies, etc. so that he isn’t going to waiver in feelings about me.
 - a. The problem isn’t with him, but with us or what we’re listening to.
 - b. We have no grid to understand this, b/c our love is so conditional & based upon emotions.

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- ii. My sinful nature has been destroyed (Ro.6.5–14)
 - 1. Jesus destroyed the thing that was destroying me. He wiped it out.
 - 2. It is now possible to live an effortlessly sinless life. You won't perfectly because we live in a Satan dominated and sin soaked world that is constantly tempting us but it is possible.
 - 3. He destroyed the root of sin in my life. Like an tree whose root has died, it may take some time before everything above the ground reflects everything below the ground.
 - a. 1 John 3.8–10 – I don't go on sinning. What if you do? You either don't know the Lord or you have a demonic stronghold in your life that is energizing it.
 - b. More under b, ii, 3
 - 4. You don't have to believe the lie that says, "you'll always have the struggle." The root is dead and a new tree has been planted.
 - a. The tree of the knowledge of good & evil has been burned to the ground.
 - b. The tree of life has been planted.
 - 5. He not only killed it, but Jesus placed his very Spirit in me so that I can live His kind of life.(Ro.6.5–6)

- iii. I am conformed to the image of Christ (Ro.8.29)
 - 1. It is both a process (being conformed) and a state (am conformed). God sees both, but he

relates to us based upon our state. We experience the process and don't see the state and assume that he relates to us accordingly.

- a. IOW, God relates to me like I would relate to my kids who were constantly making bad choices and never maturing.
- b. He addresses those areas of compromise & sin, but not with the attitude of a frustrated parent wanting her child to get her act together.
- c. Julie Meyer prophecy - like a coach.

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b. Deliverance

i. I am no longer under God's judgment (Ro.5.9-11)

1. **I have the same standing Jesus has with His father; the same standing that Adam had with God.** Even when I sin, "the blood of Jesus covers me from all sin." IOW, it's not an on again off again position - now I'm like Adam pre-fall & now I'm like Adam post-fall.
2. John 16.11 - The HS will convict the world of judgment...b/c the ruler of this world has already been judged.
3. Satan is judged by God. I am not! Satan gives away what he has. He wants me to experience what he feels. He is judged, condemned, guilty before God -----> he wants me to feel judge, condemned & guilty before God. He feels isolation, rejection, God's anger and he projects it on me and attaches God's name to it & I buy the lie.

- a. My habit of throwing things away. Sometimes I accept the blame for something I didn't do, b/c I can't remember if I did or didn't throw it away & also b/c of my past history. A few times Stephanie finds the missing item & then realizes I didn't throw it away.
 - b. Likewise, Satan places his judgment on us & we forget who we are in Christ & we accept it.
 - c. When you begin feeling that isolation, rejection, judgement & condemnation from God remember who you are in Christ & who is the source of all that negativity.
 - d.
4. I'm not saying you'll always feel a euphoric sense of closeness with God, but you should sense peace, joy, hope & favor, even when he convicts you of sin. If you don't, either you're walking away from God (in sin - if you walk in the darkness, you'll feel the climate of darkness) or you're under the influence of the demonic.

- ii. I am no longer dominated by Satan (Eph.2.1-7; Lu.10.18-20, 11.20)
 1. Since my position/relationship with the Father has been restored, I have the same authority Adam had over Satan in the garden of Eden.
 2. I don't have to run around in fear; make some big deal about the enemy
 3. Strongholds get established in my life through sin, i.e. gambling addiction, but they are built in a dead tree. I believe a reason they remain is b/c

our flesh has been conditioned by the sin. My sinful nature is dead, but my flesh isn't. Through ongoing sin, my flesh cries out for the rush. Demonic activity energizes the flesh and weakens the will, so I grow captive.

- a. The Psalmist said, "my heart & flesh cry out for you the living God." We can condition our flesh so it desires more & more of God, i.e. youth camp experiences, conferences or personal retreats - you want to stay in those places; you can't get enough of God. Your flesh has been conditioned to enjoy God's presence.
 - b. My point is that your flesh energized by demons is the strength of the stronghold. It's not your sinful nature. You are just like Adam before the fall. You have the ability to sin, but you do not have the nature to sin. Understanding this distinction makes the issue more conquerable.
 - c. War analogy: It's as though Jesus destroyed the supply lines, suppliers & the leader of the enemy's army; there are still enemy forces to face, but they have limited capabilities.
4. Good News: Salvation means He destroyed Satan's power over you; he destroyed your sinful nature; he has given you authority over that stronghold; he has given you His Spirit so you can walk in victory; he has given you others to assist you in the journey.
- a. Some of you are just a few steps away from the peak of the mountain and from that point forward, it's all down hill. Don't throw in the towel.

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c. Healing – talk about much more in two weeks.

i. His broken body bought my healing (Matt.8.16–17)

1. Just as I can walk in the firstfruits of forgiveness of sin & deliverance in this life, I can also walk in the firstfruits of healing now. IOW, I will not experience the full measure of forgiveness, deliverance & healing in this life as I will in the next, but I can experience a much fuller measure now than what I'm not experiencing.

ii. And purchased my new body (1 Cor.15.40–49)

1. The reason you get a new body in Heaven is b/c Jesus paid for it on earth! By having his body beaten, he purchased for us a new, healthy body.
2. You don't get a new body in heaven, just b/c it's heaven. You get a new body in heaven b/c he bore your sicknesses and infirmities on the cross.
3. The reason you'll experience perfect forgiveness & deliverance in heaven is b/c he purchased those things for you with His blood.
4. You get to experience fully in Heaven what He paid for you on earth. PRAISE GOD I CAN WALK IN THE FIRSTFRUITS NOW!