

4 October 2020

The Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power

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**How we are to approach the Word of God/Our worship of God:**

As we read/hear the Word of God, we must always read/hear it as the Word of God and not the words of men. In doing so we must ask ourselves, what is God teaching me, what is God revealing to me in this Book of books?

Most of all, the Person of the Holy Spirit must be our Interpreter and Guide if His Word would be rightly known/understood/lived by us.

As we open our service, understand that God is teaching us about US in the example of the Corinthian Church. Understand also that God is speaking to each of you individually about your own standing before Him. (4:14-21)

**Throughout much of human history in the world, people lived in kingdoms and under the rule and reign of Kings.**

Kings ruled nations and peoples for thousands of years. In these kingdoms, the king was sovereign, what he said was the law. There are actually still a few Kingdoms in the world whose kings reign as sovereign rulers. The Kingdoms of Saudi Arabia, Brunei, Oman, and Vatican City.

None of us know what it's like to live under an actual earthly king, but if you are believer in Jesus Christ, (born-again) by the Spirit of God, YOU have been ushered or conveyed into the Kingdom of God's Dear Son.

You were freed/delivered from the god of this world, (Satan), ushered into the Kingdom of Christ.

Colossians 1:13-14: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated (conveyed) us into the Kingdom of His Dear Son. In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins

Now, as children of the Kingdom of God, we are to live our lives in this world according to the laws and commands of God's Kingdom.

**In our text this morning, the Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church about the power of the Kingdom of God.**

We left off last week in (4:18-19): After Paul reproved/admonished the Corinthian Church and wrote to them: Although you have many teachers/instructors in the church, what you lack are spiritual fathers, mentors, and examples. You need spiritual fathers, mature Christians to take you under their wings and to personally disciple you.

You need some good spiritual examples!

FOR THIS CAUSE Paul sent Timothy to Corinth, to bring them to remembrance of Paul's ways in Christ and his apostolic teaching. We see, Paul's apostolic authority in this passage. Remember what we read last week, the NT Churches were founded and established on the doctrine of the apostles. After those 3,000 were saved at Pentecost, Acts 2:42 tells us:

And they continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine

Ephesians 2:20: The NT Churches are and must be built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone

Timothy was therefore sent, because, as they were spiritual children of Paul, so was Timothy. He was a faithful imitator of the Apostle Paul; he would provide leadership and oversight and be faithful to Paul's doctrine and manner of life.

(4:17): Timothy shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church

**(4:18): Now some are puffed up, as though I would not come to you**

The implication was that Paul was bold in his letters but afraid to show up in person to deal with these conceited/arrogant false teachers.

(4:19-20): But I will come to you shortly, (if the Lord will), and will know, not the speech (or words) of them which are puffed up, but the power. For the Kingdom of God is not in word, (or speeches), but in power

**The Kingdom of God is not in word:**

What did Paul mean; the Kingdom of God is NOT in word (or as it means, speeches) but in power? Not in word; the truths of the Kingdom of God are not empty/powerless words; they are the Words and message of God Himself to fallen humanity, and therefore (when rightly preached), they are accompanied by His power.

And then, not in word but in power speaks of the efficacy of the Word of God or message of the Kingdom of God! Efficacy means having the power or capability to produce a desired effect. Jeremiah 23:25-32

Paul had already told them that the power of God's Kingdom would not manifest itself in enticing words of man's wisdom or in eloquence of speech. (1:17)

In (4:19): Paul said, I will come to you shortly, (Lord willing), and I will KNOW the words of these puffed up teachers; and I will KNOW whether it is the gospel of the Kingdom of God gospel or not! 1 Thessalonians 1:5

Brethren: When we gather together to worship God, if God would manifest His power in our gatherings, we MUST preach the message of the Kingdom of God, which is the message of Jesus, our King. We MUST NOT concern ourselves with the manner or eloquence in which it is delivered, but we are to listen to and obey as God's message to us.

So many today want to go to church to be entertained! They want the preacher to keep their attention! YOU MUST to keep your attention!

The reason so few pay attention to the preaching of God's Word in the church gathering is because they don't pay attention to God and His Word outside of the church gathering!

The Corinthians were all about presentation, performance,

eloquence of speech & wisdom of words; the result; the power of God was not present and did not accompany their message! 2 Corinthians 10:1-12, 11:5-6

Paul: I might sound like an idiot to you, but you must listen to my message because it is from God! I KNOW what I am talking about!

1 Corinthians 2:3-5: I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but (it was a) demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should NOT stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God

It's not STYLE, but the SUBSTANCE of the message that matters! The gospel of Christ is the ONLY MESSAGE that the Spirit of God will use; ONLY the gospel has the efficacy or the power and capability to give life, to change hearts, and reveal Jesus Christ to both the lost and to the saved!

Romans 1:16-17, 10:17, Hebrews 4:12

There is NO earthly kingdom, king, president, governor, or counselor who has the power to change someone's heart and life; to change their nature; to forgive sins; Only the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings has that power.

**Many in the religious world today know the spiritual phraseology of Christianity, but WHO have not entered into the Kingdom of God.**

There is only one way to enter into the Kingdom of God, and that is to come to the Lord Jesus Christ in repentance and faith. Repentance; turning away from and renouncing your sins in obedience to the gospel.

Repentance was the message of the Lord Himself from the beginning of His public ministry! Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:14-15, John 3:1-3

The new birth implies new life and a radical change in one's life; born-again meaning born from above. If you recall, we opened with:

Colossians 1:13-14: God has delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated (or conveyed) us into the Kingdom of His Dear Son. In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins

Those who have been born-again by the Spirit of God have been delivered from Satan's kingdom and conveyed into the Kingdom of God's Dear Son!

Children of God are STILL in the world, but they are NO LONGER OF the world, but servants in the Kingdom of Christ; under His rule and reign!

NOW, Christian, your heart, (is where God has set up His Kingdom); your heart has been made new and radically changed. NOW, as a child of the Kingdom of God, your attitudes, conduct, and even how you think are all governed by the laws of the Kingdom of God! You are no longer the lost sinner that were, and that is because you are a servant to a NEW KING!

The Lord Jesus Christ. Again, where does God set up His

Kingdom? Luke 17:20-21, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Isaiah 9:6-7

The Kingdom of God is the sovereign, reigning, governing power of God SET UP in in the heart of EVERY believer! Listen to the Word of Christ to His apostles in Matthew 13, in the chapter of Parables of the Kingdom of God:

Matthew 13:10-17

In closing, understand Paul's warning to the Corinthian Church; they had cast God's message aside for worldly wisdom, (eloquently spoken), but powerless to change a sinful heart and life and powerless to birth anew into the Kingdom of God!

1 Corinthians 2:4

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power

Paul: My preaching was not a demonstration of my abilities to speak by my own wisdom in order to change the hearts and minds of my listeners; it was a demonstration of the efficacy of the Holy Spirit's power; it was God's message and not my own. I am only a planter in God's vineyard and an under-rower under His Command!

That your faith should NOT stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God

**In closing: Paul in (4:21) says: What will ye? (What do you want?) Shall I come unto you with a rod, or in love, and in the spirit of meekness?**

Paul gave them the option, but he would correct them one of two ways, either in severity or with gentleness/mildness.

**When you come to the preaching of God's Word on the Lord's Day, you should hear the Word of God exposed.**