

REVIVE YOUR SOUL #2

Knowing What We Work With, and
How It Takes “The Pressure Off”

THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE YOKE

- To be yoked to Jesus means to pull our load in life and ministry with him.
- He has say over all things in heaven and earth and is with us always. Matt. 28:18-20
- Our resources are always adequate to what he wants accomplished where we are.
- Our part is to understand this and put it into practice. Cp. Prov. 3: 5-7

THE SNARE OF TALENTS AND ATTAINMENTS

- The crushing burden is to try to carry our load in life in terms of our abilities and our attainments. What's on our "Bio," our Resume. Don't trust it!
- Paul: "I will boast about my weaknesses ...for when I am weak, then I am strong."
- The action with us of Christ and his Kingdom is our resource at all times and what we must carefully practice the presence and use of it.

SOME OLD TESTAMENT LESSONS IN “WITH”

- Moses and his staff. Ex. 4:2-4
- Joshua. Deut. 31:6, Josh. 1:9
- David on Goliath. I Sam. 17:47
- In battle. Ps. 18:29
- The battle is the Lords. II Chron. 20:17
- What Nicodemus didn't know. John 3:10

THE GOOD NEWS: LIFE NOW IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- If we would live in the resources of Jesus, we must preach what he preached in the manner he preached it.
- “Repent, for the Kingdom of the Heavens is right here now (‘at hand’).” Matt. 4:17
- His three-fold practice: Preach, Manifest, and Teach. Matt. 4:22 & 9:35, Luke 4:43.

THE HUGE TRANSITION

- Everyone pressing into the Kingdom. No “formalities” Matt. 11:11-2, Luke 16:16
- “The Kingdom of God will be taken away from you and be given to a people bringing for the fruits of the Kingdom.” Matt 21:43
- Who “administers” the Kingdom? Jesus Christ himself. The one “with us.” His direct availability.

WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

- It is God acting, what God is doing. His “reigning.”
- It is where what God wants done is done.
- It is the range of his effective will.
- It is not a political or social reality, not even the “Church.” Not the millennial reign.
- It is an everlasting metaphysical reality, the natural home of the soul: God and his reign.

NOT TWO GOSPELS

- The New Testament Gospel of Jesus is the same as the Gospel about Jesus.
- It is, simply, trust Jesus, count on him, put your confidence in him. Totally.
- Through reliance on him for everything, including the forgiveness of our sins, we know the sufficiency of God to our life and our work. We live in the Kingdom.
- “Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness.” Matt 6:33 What that means.

COMING TOGETHER IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

- What Jesus was still teaching in Acts for forty days: The Kingdom of God. Acts 1:3
- What the disciples were learning. Acts 3:6 and 8:12
- Paul's constant message. Acts 20:21 & 25, 28:23 & 31
- Jesus puts a face on the Kingdom, the Kingdom gives Trinitarian substance to Jesus.

THE KINGDOM WORD DOES THE WORK

- Sowing and growing. Mark 4:26-29 & 4:3-20 (Matt 13:3-23)
- The sower sows the word of the Kingdom. Mark 4:14/Matt. 13:19
- The word does the work. “The pressure’s off!”
- We simply practice the three-fold activity.

PAUL'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE WORD

- “...all the things God had done with them, and that he had opened the door of faith...”
Acts 14:27
- The Thessalonians (I Thes. 1:4-5)
- The Corinthians (I Cor. 2:1-5, and II Cor. 3:12 and 10:10)
- The Kingdom in the Church. Rom 14:17

ALTERNATIVE ‘GOSPELS’ TODAY

- If you believe that Jesus died for your sins, they will be forgiven. That’s all. Conservative sin-management ‘gospel’.
- God is in favor of justice and liberation, and you can join him by taking action. That’s all. Liberal sin-management ‘gospel’.
- Take care of your church and it will take care of you. Church sin-management gospel

THESE GOSPELS...

- Leave out the easy-yoke life, except as an option which some may choose.
- Do not have an natural tendency to lead into discipleship to Jesus.
- Account for the current acceptance of being a Christian without being an Apprentice of Jesus.
- Make the after-life vacuous, fantastic or unreal.
- Make the life a ministry hard if not impossible.

THE RESULT WE HAVE ON HAND TODAY

Is the direct result of the message we live and preach. ---

“Your system is perfectly designed to yield the result you are getting.”

Jesus did not leave us with inadequate provision to accomplish his objectives in our life and in the people we minister to.

JESUS' GOSPEL, BY CONTRAST

- Leads into whole-life discipleship—learning to live our lives in the kingdom of God as he would lead our lives if he were we—
- Not just Consumer Christians.
- And into the progressive transformation of human personality from inside out, all the dimensions of the self.
- Yielding a radiant church, the saints in light. Col. 1:12 & Eph. 5:8-9.

“THE BATTLE IS THE LORDS...”

- We simply present the Kingdom in life and word as he did. This is our part. We must do it.
- Get out of the performance role and into the reliance role. Disregard “success.” Paul inability to perform. II Cor. 10:10
- Do the best we can, but never trust that.
- “Stand and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf.” II Chron. 20:17
- “Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice.” Phil. 4:4