

PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)

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Self-Evident Truths

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Introduction

From the natural perspective the Declaration of independence of the United States of America begins with some powerful words:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. . .”

The self-evident truths in the Declaration are these, [1] all men are created equal; [2] all men have been given inalienable, that is, unrevocable, rights by their Creator. Three of these rights are defined as, [1] life; [2] liberty; and [3] the pursuit of happiness. These rights are secured or realized through governments, which derive their power from the consent of those who are governed.

While these truths may be self-evident, in practice they are not absolutes but instead are relative. For example, to secure liberty for some may require the loss of life for others. Pursuing happiness by some may interfere with achievement of happiness by others. To function properly, democracies have to balance the various 'inalienable' rights of the governed. That works as long as most of the governed are willing to sacrifice some aspects of 'their rights' for the benefit of others. On a long term basis, it is impossible for the Adamic nature in us to do this. Eventually, we begin to think that 'my rights' outweigh 'your rights' and in a democracy 'special interest' groups come together to secure 'their rights' at the expense of the others that are being governed.

Absolute Truths

God has established absolutes, which are true at all times, in all places, in all circumstances and among all beings. He has personified truth for us in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is Truth and the foundation of all reality.

DEFINITION OF ABSOLUTE

1. Complete in itself without qualification or exception
2. Having and exercising complete power and authority without need for negotiation
3. Free from mixture or extraneous elements
4. Without limitation or affected by any condition
5. Free from all outside restraints
6. Standing alone without help or restrictions.

In light of this, God has established Jesus as Absolute Ruler and Absolute King with absolute power and absolute authority to set an absolute standard for an absolute Government for eternity as shown by the Scriptures.

Hebrews 13:8 NKJV Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.

The King is unchangeable in character and in function. His rule is unchangeable in administration; therefore, making His government secure and unshakable.

Hebrews 12:26-28 NKJV whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "YET ONCE MORE I SHAKE NOT ONLY THE EARTH, BUT ALSO HEAVEN." (27) Now this, "YET ONCE MORE," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain. (28) Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

We are receiving a kingdom, a government, which is secured by the King. It cannot be shaken. It stands as an absolute. Everything that is not secured by the King will be shaken out so that only the Kingdom remains.

Jesus Christ is God's unchanging person, God's reigning King, and the Kingdom is God's unshakable and immovable government and divine order. These two absolutes are established by God to provide an absolute anchor to which we may fix our hope and our existence for now and eternity. This is the focus of our hope. If we lose sight of these two absolutes and focus upon any other aspect of life, our life and ministry become relative and, therefore, irrelevant as far as any ability to accomplish God's purpose is concerned.

So, spiritually we hold these truths to be self-evident; [1] God has appointed His absolute King; [2] the Government is upon His shoulders and absolutely encompasses all of creation. He has provided by grace through faith, [1] life, [2] liberty and [3] righteousness for all as a benefit of submission to His Government.

The governed are governed with or without their consent because there is coming a day when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is lord. The fact is that every person, everywhere, in all ages "stand under" the government of God and are subject to His King. Some "stand under" by obedience and some "stand under" by disobedience but all "stand under"--even those who are ignorant or unaware of the laws of the Kingdom of God. They are always at work because Kingdom Law is built into all of creation. As an absolute, we cannot break the sovereign laws of the Kingdom but *we can break ourselves upon them.*

Applied Absolutes

To meet all human need both now and for eternity, both the Unchanging King and the Unshakable Kingdom are essential. To understand this we need to have some insight into Kingdom government and how it works in eternity and how that applies to us now.

First, we should realize that to receive the benefits of the Kingdom we have to do the will of the Father as Jesus said:

Matthew 7:21 NKJV "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

We have made this rather abstract and subjective. The “will of the Father” becomes whatever I want to do in the name of the Lord. As long as I subjectively decide the will of the Father, I am still operating under self-government rather than the Government of the King.

So, we see that first I must come to grips with God's government in terms of *who I am* before considering *what I do*. Who I am is a subject of the King. All self-government must die and Jesus must, in practice, become King over all that I am.

After submitting who I am to the Lord, I can then address what I do. Jesus made it clear in Matthew chapters five, six, and seven that His government encompasses our relationship with God and with each other and it adjusts our character, our attitudes, our thoughts, our actions, our disposition, every aspect of our life. This means that the will of the Father involves more than doing some 'ministry' or obedience in outward work. In other words, it must become subjectively real in us before we can express its objective nature. Doing the will of the Father involves obedience to both the King and His government, which is divine order. Both of these require subjective and objective obedience.

Man only has relevance in relationship with the King and His Kingdom. Outside of that realm of the absolutes we may easily fall short of God's eternal purpose. Everything—wealth, power, authority, prayer—must be held in proper perspective to the Unshakable Kingdom and the Unchanging Person. When man and his desires, even ministry desires, become the center and focus of any activity, it is outside the absolutes and becomes a subjective, relative work without Kingdom value.

When I refer to these two absolutes I don't mean to separate the King and the Kingdom as two separate things. Jesus Christ has been established as the absolute and supreme authority over all the universe. He has been exalted above every living thing. He has been given total dominion—everything has been placed under His feet. He is the Head of the church which is His body. The Kingdom is that absolute and divine order that is presently functioning in heaven. When it functions on earth in that same measure we can say "the Kingdom has come".

If the Kingdom was just a mechanical system of government with various laws that must be obeyed, our relationship with the Kingdom would depend upon our individual ability to understand the laws and obey them. This would be similar to the laws under the Old Covenant. However, the "laws" under the New Covenant are written upon our minds and our hearts by the Holy Spirit.

The Old Covenant had to do with outward actions only. The New Covenant has to do with spirit and life. It is manifested through the thoughts and intentions of the heart. The New Covenant is concerned with an inner life that has an outward revelation. Life comes first, good works come

second.

This arrangement places the operation of the laws within the life of the Kingdom citizen as internal as opposed to external like the Old Covenant laws. Our connection to these laws is only through a life union with the Lord Jesus Christ by His Spirit. Trying to access the Kingdom except through the Lord Jesus Christ is impossible and an absolute waste of time.

Jesus Christ and the eternal Kingdom are one—it is The King and His Kingdom. The commandment of one is the commandment of the other. We must take these commandments seriously or we may find ourselves rejecting the Kingdom. The tendency of the church is to hear the commandments, determine we can't do them and then forget it. We think, if I can't do it then I am not responsible—not held accountable. But the very fact that the Kingdom gives commandments makes us responsible and accountable. Whether we can do it or not is irrelevant, because the provision is in the Kingdom and the supply of the King.

Purpose

What's the point of existence? Apart from understanding something of God's purpose there seems to be no adequate explanation for our existence. No philosophy offers a satisfying explanation for the meaning of life. Only the Word of God offers rational understanding of the purpose of our years spent on this earth. Much, if not most, of the preaching and teaching in the church only sees the goal as going to heaven someday. It seems that man was created to fall so that God could redeem man and take him to heaven. It seems quite logical that God, who is the Creator of all things, must have a greater purpose in creation than just to save us from hell.

All this is a great mystery that is far beyond natural man solving by scientific research and empirical evidence. The mystery must be solved by revelation that is held within the scripture but is taught to us by God. Many evangelicals who read the scriptures believe that the whole Bible is just a book of salvation. They say it reveals that God delivers man from hell in order to fellowship with man in heaven. Of course, it should be clear that if that was the total purpose of God, He could have locked up or destroyed the devil so man would not have fallen in the first place. Or God could have created man in heaven instead of upon earth.

The whole experience on earth must have more purpose than we have given it. Our existence here is a time of preparation for eternity or all of the trials, sufferings, persecutions and tribulations are without reason and produce no eternal benefit.

[2 Corinthians 4:16-18 NKJV \(16\)](#) Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. [\(17\)](#) For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory. [\(18\)](#) while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

As we live within the requirements of the King and the Kingdom today, we are being prepared to fit into our place in the Eternal Kingdom. If the Kingdom were only a place in the future where we go when we die, why would the Lord place so much emphasis on how we live here? After all, if God so desired, we could be changed into His likeness in a moment, in the blinking of an eye; however, He has chosen to change us through the instruments of His Spirit and trials and sufferings.

The Kingdom is both a fixed order in heaven and an unfolding order here on earth. It is historical, contemporary, and future. It is normal and easy to focus upon one aspect of the Kingdom and ignore the other aspects. Since the Kingdom really is both now and future, if we focus on the future then we may miss the current fulfillment of the Kingdom in our lives. For centuries this has been the emphasis—the Kingdom someday. However, the Kingdom is the stability of the universe in every generation for those who submit to its government. The Kingdom is the purpose of our existence both now and in Eternity and it is preparing us to fulfill our destiny.

Entering the Kingdom

Some theological questions arise about entering the Kingdom of God. Mostly the church has taught if you are born again you are a citizen of the Kingdom. The reason that is given is the church and the Kingdom are the same thing. If that is true then the scriptures concerning the Kingdom are confusing when compared with those dealing with the Church. Can we logically say "repent for the church is at hand" or the church is "the pearl of great price", or "like a treasure hidden in a field"?

The church is not the Kingdom. The kingdom has always existed while the church is seen through about 2000 years of history. The church is significant only as far as it obeys the laws of the Kingdom. Disobeying the King or the Kingdom disenfranchises the church. To manifest the Kingdom we must stand in the Kingdom and have the Kingdom in us. When the kingdom is seen in us visibly, then the freedom, the provision and the power of the kingdom can be demonstrated. The weakness of the church is in her lack of the Kingdom.

In fact the church, without the Kingdom, is irrelevant. The reason is simple. If the church is not born again, not born of the water and born of the spirit and if the church is not doing the will of God, it is irrelevant.

The church is relative while the Kingdom is absolute. The church is relevant only so far as it is related to the Kingdom. The church has power and position only as it receives from the Kingdom. The church has nothing of its own and can do nothing on its own, except as it is empowered by the Lord. Jesus said "Without me you can do nothing." Nothing means nothing.

The church that ignores the commandment of Jesus or the laws of the Kingdom of God will be insignificant and weightless. The church without the Kingdom is as lifeless as the body without the head.

That lack is seen in the lack of the fruit of the Kingdom (not to be confused with the fruit of the Spirit).

Matthew 21:43 NASB "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it."

The kingdom is given on the basis of fruit—not on the basis of denomination, race, nationality, or intellectual ability. It is given only on the basis of fruit, which is the only fair way. Any other way would eliminate some person or group. But now any person or group, who can produce the fruit of the Kingdom, is welcome to the Kingdom. That doesn't discriminate against anybody. No one will be able to complain they weren't given the Kingdom or offered the Kingdom.

God has made it so all who really want the Kingdom can participate. However, it is not automatic as some teach. It will cost you everything even your self-life and self-government.

Until we examine the 150 or so New Testament Scriptures that speak of the Kingdom, we will probably be guilty of underestimating the cost of entering the Kingdom.

Many equate forgiveness of sins with entering the Kingdom. Even a quick study of the Kingdom scriptures will reveal that there is more to it than just forgiveness. The question then is what is the cost and what are the requirements to enter the Kingdom of God? God has kept that hidden; however, from the parables it is clear that the cost is all you have.

The Kingdom is like a treasure which a man found and hid in a field and went and sold all that he had to buy that field. If you can't buy the field you will not have the treasure.

These are still mysteries of the Kingdom of God that have not been revealed. We must stand confident in faith that since Jesus told us to preach the gospel of the Kingdom to the whole world, there has to be a message that can be preached to the whole world. The message must be more than "there is going to be a Kingdom someday". It is obvious, many who think they will enter the Kingdom, someday, will not. The reason is because the Kingdom must take root in us today and bring forth Kingdom fruit.

The Kingdom of God requires that we be productive, that something is produced that is of value to the Lord. Read the parables of the talents and the minas. The initial investment is provided by the Lord, but you have to use the initial investment to produce an increase. It can't be squirreled away or hidden to be produced again at the time of accounting.

No Kingdom fruit, no Kingdom. It is not complicated.

We hold these truths to be self-evident—there is an absolute King and an absolute Kingdom. Everything else is derived from these self-evident truths.

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