

Keep Seeking God's Kingdom

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In a few days time on 6th May 1993, an important event will occur for the British people. It is the local elections! This is a day of keen interest for candidates, local activists, campaigners and electorate together. The campaigners will be 'pressing the flesh' and making themselves known to the voters. Some people have adverts displayed within their windows, or wearing rosettes showing support or allegiance for the candidate.

We see how the people put their trust in these Earthly people to solve the worldly problems! However putting ones faith in these people is misplaced (*as history has shown during "The Blair years" of spin and misinformation of data being the exact opposite to his stated remarks of "open government" during his Prime-Ministerial acceptance speech – 2007 addition!*).

Some of those people may be very sincere people; they may honestly believe that they are capable in sorting out these problems. But these problems are just too deep or interacting for any humans to put right. History shows that it cannot occur. Food distribution, gainful employment, racial, ethnic, ideological and ecological problems cannot and have not been improved, but instead have just got worse.

Eccl. 1v15 That which is crooked cannot be made straight; and that which is wanting cannot be numbered. Everything is so damaged that it cannot be made straight. We have to appeal to God for His direct intervention. God created the world and all within it, so it rests with him to solve these problems. We should not deny the things that He gave us, for instance the seasons, element cycles (sulphur, oxygen, nitrogen, etc) gravity, etc. He knows what we need. He will supply what we expect of long life, real health provided we follow His rules.

Recognising that The Almighty God is Supreme is a start, but that is not enough ('sarcastically' James 2v19 says:- 'You Believe God is one, you do well - but the devils quake with fear'), we see demons treat God with more 'respect' than most humans!

Do we worship Him?

We have to make a conscious choice and effort to worship him in our thoughts and in our actions.

Isaiah 48v17 Thus says the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord your God who teaches you to your gain, who leads you by the way that you should go.

Lives have immeasurably improved when we choose to associate with God's people.

Accept His kingdom within us and operate us so that we live correctly according to God's will. His rulership should be over us with Jesus leading above, and His associates on earth with us.

We should seek that which is heavenly and advocate it to others who may be in the dark.

Matt. 6v10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Dan. 2v44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of the heavens set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

When we pray this; we are actively praying for God's destructive powers to consume and remove all these things on earth that belong to Satan's world.

Matt. 7v21-23 Not every one that says to me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of the heavens; but he that does the will of my Father which is in the heavens.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? And in your name cast out devils? And in your name done many wonderful works?

And I will profess unto them I never knew you; depart from me, you that do iniquitous works.

Matt. 5v3-10 Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs' is the kingdom of the heavens.

Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the Earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake; for theirs' is the kingdom of the heavens.

We all must have a deep regard for God's laws.

We are no longer under the Mosaic Law, however it should not diminish our respect or regard for the Mosaic law which was given to His chosen people. Our lives would be enriched if we followed them, so the validity of them is not removed.

Matt. 5v17-20 Think not that I have come to destroy the law, or the prophets; I have not come to destroy but to fulfil.

Truly I say to you, Till heaven and earth pass away, one iota or one tip of a letter shall by no means pass from the law, till all be accomplished. Who shall break one of these least commandments, and teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven; but who shall do and teaches them, the same shall be called

great in the kingdom of the heavens. For I say to you, Unless your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, then you will not enter the kingdom of the heavens!

Clearly we must respect all of God's laws, none have been removed.

It is obligatory for those who wish to be Sons of God to follow these laws.

We cannot be like the Pharisees and substitute our own brand of righteousness. Must not generate our own rules of 'what we ought to do and ought not to do' - or what has greater or lesser value. Formalism, politicising or the presenting of large gifts of money to achieve places of honour within the 'church'.

There have been many examples within our lives where we have seen prominent people who lead an immoral life style, plenty of money from deceitful commercial acts, read sermons every week in church, sit in the prominent front row - pride of place in church!

These laws should not be a burden to our lives. We should love to do what is right.

Why?

People can obey laws because of the fear of the punishment.

*However if you **love the principle behind the law**, you begin to **understand why the law exists**, then you **love to obey the law**.*

It is this that makes all the difference.

Matt. 5v38,43 You heard that it was said.....

Jesus is stating that 'you heard the Pharisees say', when he means that the authorities corrupted the law.

Jesus is trying to get behind the law of Moses. He says that all people are our neighbours and we should love them all; friend and enemy alike.

God's Standards are the important ones.

If the 'heathen' people do not understand, then most certainly do not reject them, but go many times to keep passing on The Gospel (being The Good News of a new society where selfishness shall be a thing of the past = The Millennium period).

Who knew God at the first attempt?

We came kicking and fighting - 'I will not go!'

Did God give us up?

Did He say you are not worth the effort!

No!

God so loved The World that He dispatched his Beloved Son as The Ransom Sacrifice for our sins!

What an example of love!

We will never be as good, it's an impossibility - Jesus had a good start, but this is no excuse for us not to try.

We should strive for peace with our brothers and sisters.

Matt. 5v23-24 If you bring your gift to the altar and you have not reconciled with your brother, because you are still angry, then leave your gift before the altar and go away. Reconcile yourself with your brother and then come back to offer your gift at the altar.

Is it that easy?

Often it is not!

You cannot serve God if you have not made peace with fellow humans. If there is a problem between brothers, then go to each other and say 'Let's solve it between ourselves and before God our Creator.'

Jesus was not setting The Laws of Moses aside, but deepening and widening its force. Some examples:-

Murder - to excuse genuine accidents.

Purity - remove those continual lustful thoughts.

Marriage - not to divorce as an excuse for further adulterous marriages.

Truth - so that continual oaths are not required.

Love - Godly love (charitable – not selfish gratification) that knows no boundaries.

We should value our activities and base them upon God's Law.

One hand should not know what the other is doing. We should not stand on the corners of the streets so that other people can see us praying. We should not use spirituality as a badge or label that we wear to insinuate that 'we are better than you are!'

However it is the motive that is the key factor (why is the person actually doing it – is it really genuine?)
Do not be hypocritical; do not elevate ourselves from the average person.

So many people wear their visible badge (*being the vestiges, clothing or symbols*), to show how holy they are!
They wear that spirituality for praise from others - just think of the many examples in the various world religions.

No! - God can see what is within our heart (*being the motivation that is driving their works*), better than the individual can themselves.

Matt. 6v19-21 Lay not treasures for yourselves on earth, where the moth and rust does corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. But lay treasure for yourselves in heaven, where the moth and rust cannot corrupt, and where the thieves cannot steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart also be.

We must be spiritually minded and not fleshly.

There is nothing wrong with material things - besides God gave them to us in the first place. It is all the '**isms**' (commercialism, spiritualism, nationalism, etc, etc) that are wrong all being worldly focused!

Material things are acceptable if they are kept in their right place in our thought processes, being at the bottom of the list. It is the over emphasising and chasing after these things that causes the problems of self-indulgence and thus the hurting of others. It is not right to be a slave to these things, but only a slave to God's Word.

Some people may say:-

"Must be careful with the truth, in case it takes over your life!"

Only because the True Christian is different and this is almost said by the observer to excuse themselves.

It is a matter of balance. But you cannot be a slave for God and also for riches.

Matt. 6v24-35 No man can serve two masters.....

Do not over concern yourself with what you are to eat or wear.

The fowls of the air do not worry.

Will you worrying about your height add another cubit?

The lilies of the field are more glorious than Solomon.

We must stop being anxious about providing our material needs. God will ensure that we have what we need.

We need to exert ourselves to gain the kingdom of heaven – our future.

It is very difficult when the way is narrow and difficult to the kingdom. It is possible for all of us, but we must pray for forgiveness from God.

Jesus would not suggest in his prayer (Lord's Prayer) that we ask God for forgiveness - if God was not ready to forgive us, provided we were sincere, and do what we can to **not** commit the same offence again. It is important to be truly loving and to do what is right. We need sustained effort not just wild bursts that lead to nothing.

We need a sound spiritual house firmly established upon a rock, solid mass of spiritual strength.

However, to find out how strong this house is, it must be tested occasionally.

It is this process that The Bible calls a refining process – to produce the pure gold of the person's Character. Those who succeed, become one of God's Sons.

It must withstand the shaking that people use to try and take out your faith - to knock it.

However a well-constructed and solid spiritual house will not be shaken.

Matt. 6v33 Seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Clearly, if we seek God first, an action shown by our works, then He will bless our efforts.

This is **if** we **truly** desire/yearn for His blessings and righteousness to correct our standing before Him.

1. Apply ourselves diligently to reading God's Word.
2. Cultivate love doing things that God Desires of each one of us.
3. Put them into action within our lives.
4. Advocate to other people the wonderful scenario of God's kingdom for all of society.
5. Basically everything to imitate Jesus' lifestyle in our own lives.

When this has happened, we then know that we have made the correct choice about seeking God's kingdom.