

TRANSFORMED

When you mention God's word to most Christians today, they think of the Bible. They believe it to be a book that tells of God's awesome creative power and Man's hopeless sinful condition because of Adam and Eve's fall from God's presence because of disobedience.

They also believe that it tells of God sending Jesus to die on the cross and pay Man's penalty for sin, so that we can go to heaven when we die. These things are true.

Most Christians attend Church regularly, read Christian books, listen to Christian radio stations, study Jesus's teachings, and try to walk in them with their very best effort and then repent for all the times that they fall short.

We attend Church every Sunday and listen to 3 and 6 part academic sermon series on all kinds of topics and are continually encouraged to love, pray, tithe, serve, give, witness, and many other activities until Christ returns.

These activities differentiate us from non-Christians, and in our modern day, are generally accepted as, living the Christian life and satisfies most people.

Let's look at the scriptures for a moment.

At Jesus's baptism in Matthew 3.17, the scripture says that the Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a dove and a voice came from heaven saying, "you are My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

The scriptures continue that from that time on Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Matthew 4.17

In verse 23 it also states that; Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

Jesus' words and His works that are recorded in the gospels, and those of His disciples after His resurrection, don't seem to resemble our church activity today.

The scriptures reveal that Jesus was God's first born Son and that we have been predestined to be conformed to Him. Romans 8.29

When Christ was resurrected He gave supernatural ministry gifts to the church; for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we ALL attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4.12

Verse 15 states that;
speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, Who is the head even Christ.

So after generations of church activity and the many variations of them, we've yet to see anyone grow up in all aspects into the full measure of the stature which belongs to Christ.

Religion is done by men and for men. The Gospel of the Kingdom is done by God and for God. He's the only one in the universe who can do it.

I regard the Bible as God's written word and I read it constantly. They are statements of reality from God that invite us to be redeemed back into His family as His children, His heirs, and joint heirs with Christ sharing His inheritance with Him.

To venerate the Bible as God's word and not accept His invitation into the supernatural covenant relationship with the Father is just another form of religion.

Jesus scolded the Pharisees for their academic study of the law, saying, "you search the scriptures thinking that in them you have eternal life, but they testify of Me and you won't come to Me that you can actually have that life.

God's intention for sending Jesus to endure the brutal death by crucifixion was NOT to forgive men's sins and create a whole kingdom full of church going bible students.

Christ crucifixion did so much more than just forgive our sins.
His death on the cross, on our behalf completely re-created us as new creatures and set us free from our old sinful nature that we inherited from Adam and Eve.

I encourage you to read all of Romans chapter 6.

Verse 4 reads;
Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of His life.

Verse 6 continues;
knowing this, that our old self was crucified with *Him*, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin.

Verse 10 exhorts us;
For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

So in God's mind, Christ not only died for us, we actually died with Him. He put us in Christ and whatever happened to Christ also happened to us.

1 Corinthians 1.30 reveals that by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, Who became to us, wisdom from God, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption.

Because of the fall of man from God's presence, Man's only perception of reality came from his five senses. Only what he could see, hear, feel, taste and touch was considered real. And this is universally accepted as the proper way to think about things.

God's words are statements of reality from the Creator of the universe to us. They're not Bible teachings to ponder, discuss and debate with our natural minds.

According to God's word, our old natural nature was crucified with Christ. When we accept our death and resurrection with Christ by God's doing, the Holy Spirit testifies to our new identity as sons of God. Romans 8.15

We can then reject the authority of our natural senses, and accept God's word as the reality of our lives. We can begin to see things as God sees them.

We can then experience His supernatural transformation back into His family as His children, His heirs, and joint heirs with Christ of everything that He possesses.

Jesus, speaking of His Holy Spirit said;

"He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose *it* to you. "Everything that the Father has is Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose *it* to you.

John 16.14

The Apostle Paul exhorted the Roman believers to completely offer themselves to God, and be transformed by the renewing of their minds. Romans 12.1+2

The Greek word translated as "transformed" is the compound word "metamorphoo". Meta mean's "changed by being with" and "morphoo" means "changed into a completely different form". Kind of like a moth to a butterfly.

This change is a completely supernatural process and God is the only one who can do it. Man's religious effort and behavior modification cannot accomplish this.

Jesus explained;

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. John 6.63

The Apostle Paul declared;

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a completely new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5.17

The Apostle John explained how this happens.

But to all who receive Him, to those who believe in His name, He gave the right to become children of God— children born not of blood, nor of the desire or will of man, but born of God. John 1.12

Jesus's met privately with Nicodemus in John chapter 3.
He did not say, "Nic, you really need to be more disciplined and read your Bible more."
He said unless you're born again you can't even see the Kingdom.
And unless you're re-born by the Spirit of God you can never enter it.

So in the only place that being born again is even mentioned in the scriptures, Jesus made it pretty clear that it wasn't about having our sins forgiven, and living a normal life full of church activity.

It also appears that God's intention was not to forgive men's sins, and have them pray continually and do homage to a God who lives out in the ozone somewhere, like helpless orphaned children.

The Pharisees in their lifelong effort to perform every stroke of the law, asked Jesus which is the most important commandment?
He raised their focus from religious performance of commands to serious heart issues.

Jesus responded, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

It's clear that God's intended relationship with His people was not worship from afar, but an intimate love relationship with their Father. to be filled with His unchanging love and live in His presence.

Jesus told His Father;
I have given them the glory You gave Me, so that they may be one just as We are one— I in them and You in Me—that they may be perfectly united, so that the world may know that You sent Me and have loved them just as You have loved Me. John 17.22

In John 14 Jesus explained that His Holy Spirit would no longer just be with us, but He would be in us. And if we keep His word, He and the Father would make their permanent dwelling place in us.

He doesn't want us to visit Him once a week. He wants to move in and have the run of the house.

God's intended result of the Gospel of the Kingdom, that Jesus preached was, us living in His Kingdom and His Kingdom in us.

Jesus said that the Kingdom of God is like a women who put leaven in 3 measures of dough until the whole lump was leavened.

The Kingdom of God is not a teaching that we can add to our natural life. It's designed to swallow up our old sinful life inherited from Adam and Eve, and make us God's sons and daughters who are qualified to inherit His Kingdom, live in His presence, and manifest His Eternal Life to this entire world

I say, FILL ME UP DADDY!

God bless you.

Jim Fuller

kingdomrealities.org