

What are we looking for...? B. Keith Chadwell

What are we looking for, "Natural" things or "Spiritual" things??

If Christians continue to let their natural minds rule, instead of minding the things of the Spirit, we will continue to remain infants and not come to the maturity, in Christ Jesus, that God has purposed for His church.

Come up higher, Church. We are NEW creations in Christ, old things have passed away and all things have become new.

2nd Corinthians 5:16-17 (New Int. K.J.V.); "So, from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **NEW CREATION; THE OLD HAS GONE (†) THE NEW HAS COME!**"

"Kingdom" or...."where the King has dominion", which we are not to look for, here and there. The Kings dominion **is within us** and it is "at hand".

Mat 5:20 For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees*, ye shall in no case **enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

Act 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, *and* exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through **much tribulation** enter into **the kingdom** of God. (coming under the dominion of the King)

To enter into that place where The King has total and complete dominion is what we are talking about when "the Kingdom of God" is referenced.

That is; God's dominion...within us, ...within our hearts, in this lifetime.

Does the King (God) have complete dominion in our hearts when we first become "born again" Christians? If we are honest, we know He does not. It is a process, just as being born in the flesh and then growing from infancy to adulthood is a process. Just as maturity in "the natural" is progressive and requires mentoring and supervision and discipline for success, so it is with our New Creation, our new life in the Spirit.

I don't know about you, but I had my time in the wood shed of discipline and bumped my nose and suffered the consequences of many a wrong decision, in order to grow up from infancy to a mature adult. I would even go so far as to say that; "I went through **much tribulation** before I actually grew into a reasonably responsible adult".

So why, do we still insist on looking for a literal Kingdom that is, yet, someday to come?

Jesus told us, already, long ago..."My Kingdom is not of this world"... So, right away, our natural mind wants to make something out of this that we can see, smell, feel, taste or hear with our natural bodily senses. He also told us, not to look for it, here or there, because "it is within us". He told us, then, over 2,000 years ago, also, it is..."at hand". So, God's rule in our hearts has been available to believers for a long, long time. Man's natural mind has made some strange leavened doctrine out of this.

2nd Corinthians 5:16-17 (New Int. K.J.V.): "So, from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **NEW CREATION; THE OLD HAS GONE (†) THE NEW HAS COME!**"

Come up, higher, Church. Jesus lives, in our hearts, today, if we believe on Him and are truly born of His Spirit. Do not think you must wait for Him to come, or go up to heaven to live and reign with Him in life.

His dominion is available, today, through the submission of our fleshly desires for the Spirit to change. Only He can change our hearts to conform to His divine nature. We fall short, because we think we must do the work required to obey His laws with our natural ability or grit our teeth resolve, in the strength and resolve of our natural flesh. That is the shortfall of Christian teaching, today and one of the major reasons the Church is still drinking milk and unable to eat strong meat. We cannot, in the strength of our natural flesh, produce, from our hearts, His manifest righteousness. It is His work and His, strange work, alone.

True, this will be hard on our fleshly desires and our stubborn fleshly will and our pride. It will require "tribulation" and thrashings of various kinds in order to for Him to produce and then, consistently, manifest His divine nature in us. It will require the "fire" of the Holy Spirit in order to burn up the hay wood and stubble in our lives. However, it is His work, not ours. We can only choose to submit ourselves to His work, whatever and whenever.

But... we are talking New Creation talk...not of natural things. So, don't be looking for a big green John Deere thrashing machine to run you down or a flame thrower to whoosh in on you to burn up the chaff in your life.

Maturity in the Spirit will require the fire and the threshing in your life, for sure, in order for the Lord to burn up those things up that won't be eternal. It is through this fire and threshing that will come forth, from our hearts, His manifest righteousness, His light to the world. It is the only way to participate with Father God in doing His will and glorifying Him, again, in the earth, as Jesus did.

This will be God working in you, both to will and to do His good pleasure. This will be the process of developing His divine nature and maturing you, in the Spirit, unto the stature and measure of Christ. Even, unto manifest Sons of God.

Creation is groaning and is in travail....waiting for us to be manifest to the world.

What are we waiting for; **"The Kingdom of Heaven's at Hand"**.

(ISV) Isa 32:17 The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness will be **quietness and confidence** forever.

(KJV) Isa 32:17 And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness **quietness and assurance** for ever.

Mic 4:6 In that day, saith the LORD, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that **I have afflicted;**

Zep 3:12 I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the LORD.

Mat 5:3 Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Psa 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

Psa 119:71 *It is* good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

Psa 119:75 I know, O LORD, that thy judgments *are* right, and *that* thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

~ ~ ~