

IN SYNC

WILLIS 12/13/09

Col 1:9-18

We know in the natural “timing is everything.” If a car is out of time it doesn’t run; if a team is off in its timing it doesn’t win. **Timing is what keeps two collaborating entities in sync. Without synchronization there is little accomplishment and certainly no victory.**

- But when collaborating entities recur together there is growth, fruitfulness and in the Lord, “commanded blessing.”

The command of Jesus to “seek first the Kingdom,” implies the necessity of coming into a divine sync with our definitions of the Kingdom, our scope of the Kingdom and our timing of the Kingdom. If we aren’t in sync with Him, we are out of sync with life.

- These past 6 weeks have been about coming into sync with the definitions and the scope of the Kingdom. Today we want to turn our attention to synchronizing the timing.
- If the Kingdom of God is a future event only, then everything we have said so far has no present day relevancy. If the realm of God is future only, He has no right to rule now. If the government of God is future only, He has no right to expect His will now.
- So when Jesus said “The Kingdom of God is at hand...” He was bridging time, taking what was perceived as a future event only and making it relevant, in fact central now.
- **The fact that the Kingdom of God is limitless in relation to time and scope, we must accept the obvious tension between the “nowness” of the Kingdom and the “notyetness” of the Kingdom.**

I have entitled what I want to share today “In Sync.” Having spent the past 6 weeks looking at “The Kingdom of God; what it is. Today we want to focus on the Kingdom of God; when it is.

- **Specifically we want to come into sync with the “nowness” of the Kingdom which commands my daily behavior and the “notyetness” of the Kingdom which commands my future expectations.**

Col 1:9-18

Quite obviously the tense of Paul’s discussion is past tense. We have already been transferred out of the domain of darkness and have already been brought over into the Kingdom of His dear Son. So we are not waiting for His second coming for that to happen, it has already happened.

- At the new birth we are translated out of one kingdom and are brought over into another. However, if what we have been brought over into is only what we currently have and it doesn't get any better, the Kingdom is not all what it was cracked up to be.
- Life is most definitely good but this is not the fullness of "Kingdom come."

Though Jesus said, "The Kingdom is now..." the present condition of man and the current quality of life is not the Kingdom in its fullness. So we must conclude an obvious tension between the now and the not yet of the Kingdom.

- The Kingdom of God is most definitely now, however it is at the same time not fully yet.

When we understand the Kingdom in relationship to government, realm and rule, we must acknowledge all of that is relevant now. We are not waiting for the earth to be the Lord's, the earth is the Lord's; we are not waiting for His right to rule, He was born ruler.

- All of that is now but the fullness of it all will not transpire until His triumphal return.
- **In the mean time, we work like the Kingdom is now and we lift our expectation as if the Kingdom is not yet.** We are a people captured between the "nowness" of the Kingdom and the "notyetness" of the Kingdom. It is the tension that keeps us engaged.

Kingdom theology is not the belief that the Church will fully restore the earth and then Christ will return. Kingdom theology is simply the belief that Christ does rule and reign now and how much He reforms before he returns is up to Him, but reform He will.

- Ep5:27: Jesus is returning for a victorious Bride without spot or wrinkle. How victorious, we don't know. What we do know is light will get lighter and dark will get darker...the tares and the wheat will dwell together but victorious we will be.
- Will Jesus return PreTrib, MidTrib or PostTrib? Jesus said no one knows but the Father. So apparently it doesn't really matter but what does matter is we understand the tension between the "nowness" and the "notyetness" of the Kingdom.
- The when and the how much are clearly in the hands of Father. We do not know the times and the extents but we do now is we are to rule, subdue and occupy till He comes.

In the midst of this tension between "now but not yet," the role of the Church is 3fold:

- 1. Enforce the Past Victory Jesus Won on the Cross: Col2:14-15** The Church is the deputy agent of Christ's governmental rule. Though it is purely a representational rule, we are delegated to enforce what He already won.
 - 1. This is not a militant enforcement, it is an enforcement won through 1. Legislative Prayer 2. Prophetic Preaching 3. Sphere Occupation.**
- 2. Disciple the Nations of the Earth: Mt28:18-20** The Church is the salt of the earth. We have been called of God to season every other would be kingdom and preserve the only supreme Kingdom...one person at a time, one mountain of influence at a time.

- 3. Penetrate the Various Spheres of Society with the Governmental Truth of the Kingdom of God: Lk19:13** Jesus left us with the command to “occupy until He comes.” “Occupy” is a military term meaning, “to hold the territory.” (penetrate, subdue)

As the Body of Christ, subject to the realm and rule of Christ’s Kingdom we can expect:

- **Personal Victory: 1Jn2:13** Jesus Christ has made us overcomers so we can expect to overcome.
- **Corporate Victory: Ep5:27** The Church of Jesus Christ will be spotless, holy and blameless.
- **Not Universal Victory: Jn16:33** In this world we will have tribulation, there will be tares...

In light of the Kingdom Mandate the weekly function of the Church is: 1. Giving God a greater glory. (Presence empowered) 2. Getting people saved and into the Church for equipping. (Purpose driven) 3. Getting the Kingdom into the Church for dominion. (Kingdom minded)

Jeremy Rifkin in his book “Emerging Order said, **“At this very moment a spectacular change in Christian theology is taking place virtually unnoticed. The change itself is simple but the ramifications are extraordinary. God’s very first commandment to humankind in Genesis is being redefined. Its redefinition changes the entire relationship of human beings to both God and to the world.”**

- The redefinition has to do with whether the Church will be leaving soon or be taking dominion soon. Thinking it was all about salvation much of the Church world has placed the major focus on leaving the earth and going to heaven.
- But if the main issue is the Kingdom where the Lord taught us to pray “Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven,” then the main issue is getting heaven to earth not earth to heaven. This has been the main issue from Gen1 where God gave man His first command.

Gen1:26-28 We see the Kingdom intent expressed in what is referred to a The Dominion Mandate. The Dominion Mandate is a 4 fold commission of Kingdom responsibility:

- 1. Be Fruitful: “Cause things to be.”** Out of intimacy we bring things forth. We bring things forth by 1. Winning respect through excellence 2. Modeling God’s will by example.
- 2. Replenish the Earth: “Confirm intent rough accomplishment.”** Become sources, regulators, catalyzers, builders, initiators, leaders, emergers, limb livers, water walkers.
- 3. Subdue the Earth: “Conquer and bring into subjection anything contrary to God’s created order.”** It is a subduing of the heart not an enforcement of the will. We subdue through occupation. We subdue through influence. We subdue through Presence.

“Any restoration of the Kingdom necessitates that there must first be a resurgence of spiritual warfare. To have the Kingdom you must first occupy the territory. Kingdom reality for the Church is where and when people spiritually occupy a specific territory for God.” Watchmen Nee: Secrets of Spiritual Power, pg 284

4. Have Dominion: “Sustain over time what was previously subdued.” The Kingdom always builds generationally. Every generation is to guard the accomplishments of the past and secure an increased dominion into the future.

- Historically we see what the first generation formulates the second generation demonstrates, the third generation authenticates and the fourth administers.

When we look at the overall intent of the Kingdom and the consequent responsibility of the Church, we can see why we live in the tension of “now but not yet.” We will bridge the gap as we become those skilled in our understanding and use of God’s Word.

- **The Bible is more than a personal handbook for salvation. Though it most definitely is that, the Bible is also God’s Word of governmental procedures for world conquest.**
- It’s not enough that we as Christians simply occupy the jurisdictions; we must become those skilled in how we (like Daniel) bring God’s Word to bear in each jurisdiction or mountain of influence.
- God builds relationally so we must occupy before we can transform but lest we forget what the ultimate intention is, **we must never lose sight of Father’s desire to see the kingdom of this world becoming the Kingdom of our God and of His Christ. (Rev11:15)**