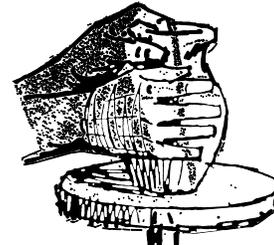


His Workmanship at Westside

*"For we are His
workmanship, created in
Christ Jesus for good works."
—Ephesians 2:10*



Isaiah 64:8

Vol. XXII

April 28, 2013

No. 17

The Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Satan *by Robert Payne and others*

Every person on earth belongs to two worlds simultaneously: a natural world and a spiritual world, 1 Cor 15:40. The natural world is made up of things we can see, hear, touch, taste, and smell. The natural world is visible. But at the same time, every person also lives in a spiritual world that is invisible.

The invisible world has far more influence over us than we realize. The invisible world is itself divided into two opposing camps: one called the kingdom of God and the other the kingdom of Satan, the ruler of this world, Jn 12:31; 14:30; 16:11. God's kingdom consists of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, angels of God, and every godly believer (at the coming of Christ's kingdom in Ax 2, He included the godly who lived before His time on earth, Mt 8:11, and every Christian since Ax 2 in His kingdom). Entrance into both kingdoms is by choice.

When we sin, we have chosen Satan's dominion and become an enemy of God, Jas 4:4; Rm 8:7. Jesus said: *"He who is not with Me is against Me,"* Mt 12:30; cf. 1 Cor 10:20-21. No dual residency or citizenship is possible. However, we

must choose to meet conditions to enter God's kingdom, Mt 5:20; 7:21; 18:3 (Mk 10:15; Lk 18:17); 19:23-26 (Mk 10:23-28; Lk 18:24-28); 21:31; Jn 3:5; Ax 14:22. Even if both of your parents were Christians, that would not cause you to be born into God's kingdom. Jesus is the only One who has the authority to transfer a person from Satan's kingdom to God's kingdom, Col 1:13; cf. Ax 26:18; Eph 2:2-6; 6:12; 2 Cor 4:3-4, 6.

The *kingdom of heaven* and the *kingdom of God* generally mean the same thing. Matthew preferred *kingdom of heaven*. Other authors preferred *kingdom of God*. They refer to same rule of God, but what is this kingdom? What is this precious, valuable kingdom that people would give up everything they have in order to acquire, cf. Mk 9:47; Mt 19:27?

Is it a kingdom that is yet to exist in the future, that we are holding out and waiting for? Or is it a present reality today because the King has come? "Yes!" Both are true. There is still for us a future kingdom: there are promises that were given in the Old Testament that have not yet been fulfilled, which ultimately will be fulfilled. There is a future heavenly

kingdom. However, there is also a present kingdom. That kingdom has already been inaugurated. It will find its ultimate fulfillment in eternity, but, folks, the King has come! He arrived at the incarnation. He already set his feet on the ground.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is upon you," Lk 11:20 (Mt 12:28), 22:29, or, "The kingdom is at hand (near)," Mt 3:2; 4:17; 10:7; Mk 1:15. He was saying, "I AM the King. The kingdom is where I AM when I come into My kingdom." In fact, He said that some of His disciples would not die until they saw His kingdom present (exist) with power, Mk 9:1; Mt 16:28; Lk 9:27. In Acts 2 on Pentecost, He inaugurated His kingdom, the church (after Acts 2 verb tense changes from future to present). Christians are citizens of the kingdom of heaven here on earth now because we have pledged allegiance/faithfulness to the King. When we have pledged our allegiance to Christ the King and have been born into His kingdom (the church) by water and the Spirit (baptism, Jn 3:3-8), that makes us citizens of His kingdom. We can say

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"The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you." —Luke 17:20-21

that Christ inaugurated His kingdom right here and right now in this local church on earth. Whenever we take part in the Lord's Supper on Sunday, we take it with Jesus in His kingdom, Mt 26:29; Mk 14:25; Lk 22:18.

God's kingdom involves salvation. It involves a relationship with the King. We are part of a kingdom which is ruled over by the Sovereign King. That is what the hidden treasure is, Mt 13:44. That is what the pearl of great price is, Mt 13: 45-46. They are valuable because they represent our salvation, our very relationship with God through Jesus Christ—the privilege we have of being His citizens and His children. For us, it is a free gift, completely free, that costs us nothing.

Jesus said, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God,"* Jn 3:3. We can be born only once naturally. The Bible negates any notion of reincarnation. *"It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,"* Heb 9:27. It suits Satan's purposes for people to believe in reincarnation, but God says we only die

once. *"God remembered that they were but flesh, a breath that passes away and does not come again,"* Ps 78:39. Physically we are born once. But we need to be born again spiritually. In fact, if we are not born again, i.e., born spiritually, we cannot enter heaven.

Satan's kingdom consists of: Satan who is the devil, Rev 12:9; 20:2; his wicked angels called demons, Mt 12:24-28 (Mk 3:22-27; Lk 11:15-23); and every person who has not called on the name of Jesus Christ, meaning every person who is not yet a Christian. *"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil,"* 1 Jn 3:8.

Satan and our own wrong choices are the cause of heartache and sickness in this present world. Satan wants all people to remain in his kingdom until physical death. Then he knows that they will end up in the lake of fire with him one day, Rev 20:10, 14-15, and God will be grieved about that, 2 Pet 3:9, 15; Ezek 18:23, 32; 33:11; 1 Tim 2:4.

Satan and his demons have only one

agenda: to destroy everything God has created. This includes the earth itself and its people—their relationships, their health, their prosperity, their aspirations, their children, their belief systems, everything, including their eternal destiny! That's why it is urgent to be born into God's spiritual kingdom before this present life is over. After death it will be too late.

Most people are oblivious to the spiritual battle that constantly rages between these two kingdoms, 2 Cor 10:3-6. The battle between good and evil is very real. Jesus Christ has already won the victory, but because of our willful ignorance through lack of Bible teaching about the two kingdoms, evil seems to claim ground at an escalating rate. Many things in the world today are becoming extremely dark and frightening. But Jesus Christ will visibly return as Judge and claim His victory over sin, death, and Satan. His Kingship is recognized today by those who submit to His rule in their lives; His Kingship at His return will be recognized by all, Phil 2:9-11; Is 45:23 (Rm 14:11); Rev 5:13; cf. Ps 2.

The Abuse and Ridicule of Faith by Wesley Pruden (continued from p. 4)

can be fun. Such comics work on the principle that only stupid people believe in God and that their audiences are too intelligent to do so and will therefore share any joke directed at any aspect of religion."

Once a taboo in America, aggressive atheism has slipped poison into the mainstream and has become a fashionable potion in the salons of the elite. Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and the late Christopher Hitchens have made thousands of dollars with books espousing the joys and consolations of their faith in, by definition, nothing.

This is evidence that a black hole may be better than no hole at all. In fact, there's even a chaplain for atheists at Harvard, though it's not clear what an atheist could want from a minister to the soul. ("Please help me, Padre, I'm afraid I'm coming to believe in God.") Since atheists want to borrow customs and rituals from the religious, we can expect they'll soon organize themselves to endow colleges, hospitals, and contribute millions to the lame and poor.

The late Mr. Hitchens said religion, though not necessarily believers in religion, "should be treated with ridicule, con-

tempt, and hatred." In the weeks he lay dying, he seemed haunted by a fear that at the end he would reach for the consolations of faith and warned everyone that if anyone heard that he had had a deathbed conversion not to believe it. Curious, and ineffably sad.

Christ told his disciples to expect the scorn of the world and not to be dismayed by it, because they had the kingdom of heaven, Jn 15:18-25; 17:14; Mt 10:22-25; cf. 1 Jn 3:13. But it's hard to remember Christ's counsel, to forgive and pray for those who revile
continued on p. 3



Psalm 133:1



**Fill your can-
teen in 2013**

“May you be filled
with all the full-
ness of God.”
—Ephesians 3:19

Scorn, Ridicule of Faith, from 2
the faith and speak the name of Jesus
Christ only as an oath, Mt 5:44; Rm
12:14; 1 Cor 4:12-13; 1 Pet 3:9.

Christians could be encouraged by
the story of the blacksmith and a visi-
tor who watched as the smithy pound-
ed hammer and iron against his anvil.

“My, my,” said the visitor. “You must
wear out a lot of anvils.”

“No,” the smithy replied. “My great-
grandfather used this very anvil. But I
do wear out a lot of hammers.”

REJOICE Connor Boyd put on his
Lord Jesus Christ in baptism last Sun-
day. Connor is the son of Kenny and
Wendy and the brother of Nicolas.

Congratulate Lindsey Bennett, who
will graduate from high school in May
Expecting Marie Carlson—July 1
girl; Amy Vander Kooi—August, boy

*“If you, bad as you are, know how to
give your children what is good for
them, how much more will your heav-
enly Father give good things to those
who ask Him?” Mt 7:11.*

Are you tempted as I am to doubt the
effectiveness of prayer? But Jesus
prayed. He told us to pray. We can
be sure that the answer will come, and
it will be good. If it is not exactly what
we expected, we likely were not ask-
ing for quite the right thing. Our heav-
enly Father hears the prayer, but
wants to give us bread instead of stones.

Discipleship Here At Home

Memory work, JOSHUA

outline and chapters:

- I. Entrance into Canaan, 1-4
 - A. Preparation, 1-2
 - B. Crossing the Jordan, 3-4
 - II. Conquest of Canaan, 5-12
 - A. Central campaign, 5-8
 - B. Southern campaign, 9-10
 - C. Northern campaign, 11:1-15
 - D. Hardship of conquest 11:16-12:24
 - III. Partition of Canaan, 13-24
 - A. Plan for allotment, 13-14
 - B. Tribal division, 15-19
 - C. Refuge and Levite cities, 20-21
 - D. Farewell, death of Joshua, 22-24
1. God’s command, promise: “Be strong
and courageous, for I will be with you.”
 2. Spies to Jericho; Rahab
 3. Crossing Jordan
 4. 12 men take Jordan stones, memorial
 5. Circumcised at Gilgal; Passover;
manna ceases; Captain of angel host
 6. Jericho’s wall falls
 7. Ai defeats Israel; Achan is punished
 8. Ai defeated; Joshua records law, reads
 9. Gibeonites deceive Israel into treaty
 10. Joshua defeats all cities in south
 11. Joshua defeats northern alliance
 12. List of victories by Moses and Joshua
 13. some land unconquered; Balaam dies
 14. lands east of Jordan distributed by lot;
Caleb asks for Hebron
 15. territory to Judah; Caleb conquers
Hebron; Jebusites hold Jerusalem
 16. territory to sons of Joseph, Ephraim
 17. territory to Manasseh
 18. tabernacle at Shiloh; 7 tribes to
describe remaining land; Benjamin’s land
 19. territory to 5 tribes; Joshua’s land
 20. 6 cities of refuge appointed
 21. Levites’ cities; Israel possesses land
 22. tribes east of Jordan set up altar, Ed,
as witness they are part of Israel
 23. Joshua warns Israel of idolatry
 24. Joshua’s final speech, covenant re-
newal; Joseph’s bones buried at Shechem

PRAY FOR healing, protection, help, and comfort here & away

Matt Reames—home, no abnormal pres-
sure on brain; further tests required

Madge Wallace—lung cancer; suffering
pain and nausea

Rod Green—thyroid trouble

Menards—aging; **Lloyd**, staph infection
on toes from diabetes; **Virginia**, now
legally blind from rapid macular degener-
ation; high BP

Mark Campbell—full recovery expected
from “brain bruise”

Judy Strand’s son Joe Huff—recurrence
of neurological symptoms, black-outs, from
brain injury he suffered in a 2007 car accident

**Alexander Gintchin’s classmate, Jack
Miller**—2 brain tumors; age 6

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

**Logan Corray; Rocco Sangellino Jr;
Addison Tope; Pat Wilkes**—asthma

Pearl Chapman—leg pains; pancreatitis
Nell Free—heart; spinal pain

Autumn Hadders—epilepsy

Jonathan Hadders—RA

Kirk Johnson—worsening MS; needs
help around his house

Sandra Perry—neuropathy from diabetes

Cheryl Reames—diverticulitis; fibromyalgia
Lynda Szymanski—COPD, lung

Job concerns **Andrew Tope** and
Frank Savarese are seeking jobs. **The
Menards’ son** is out of work. **Cheryl
Reames** begins a new job tomorrow.

Traveling **Pat Campbell** is in AR
caring for her parents. **Larry** returns
today from visiting them. **Ruth Hice**
fell and broke her arm; **Delmar** has
recovered from pneumonia. Cards:
28345 Hwy 69 W, London, AR 72847.
Camping in Moab this weekend are
the **Howells** (except Kim), **Brett
Witherington**, the **Hadderses**, the
Lorenzo Gonzalezes, the **Kory
Topes**, **Mina Gonzalez**, **Sarah
McMurray**, and **Joel Walker**.



Exposing current thoughts & trends

The Sanctioned Ridicule of Faith by Wesley Pruden

Atheists think they're on the march, "like a mighty army," as a favorite hymn of the church describes the followers of the Christ, and this angers and dispirits many Christians.

The mockery of religion, and not just the ridicule of individual Christians, has even won the sanction of the courts. The U.S. Ninth Circuit Court, which will sanction everything weird and contentious, ruled in 2011 that "hostility to religion" is OK, after a 16-year-old Mormon boy sued his teacher for ridiculing him for his beliefs and said there was no more evidence of the works of God than "there is a giant spaghetti monster living behind the moon." The class was expected to reward the teacher with a hearty laugh.

Such contempt is not just here, either. In Britain, the BBC commissioned a study to ask why Christians have become the butt of so many "fashionable" jokes. Ann Widdecombe, a novelist, one-time Tory member of Parliament who generally deflates intellectual pretense, said the BBC asked her to look at why mockery of Christians has become so prevalent "and to try to explain to a secular world why it matters so much to Christians." It matters because nobody likes to hear his most sacred convictions of conscience mocked, particularly if his are the only such convictions of conscience ridiculed. Television producers, she observed, feign respect for, or fear of, the followers of Islam and avoid laughing at Mohammed or exploiting abundant opportunities for poking fun. On the other hand, she catalogued a long list of examples of mockery and ridicule of Western (Judeo-Christian) religions.

In one program she had to get special permission to watch two "skeptics" yukking it up with a representation of the body and blood of Christ, putting chutney on a communion wafer, and ordering two bottles of wine to go with it, a travesty which had made even the BBC executives retch and lock it in the vaults where it could never be seen in public. The program was an episode of a sketch comedy series, and one of the creators, Anil Gupta, professed not to understand why anyone would take offense.

"Stand-up comics tend to make two assumptions," Miss Widdecombe concluded. "That Christians have no sense of humor and that all their audiences are unbelievers. The first [assumption] is so ignorant as to need no answer, but the second explains the trend towards thinking that even the most sacrilegious mockery

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Westside church of Christ

meets at
13789 W. 8th Avenue
Golden, Colorado 80401
(303) 233-5683

Pastors

Larry Campbell (303) 462-4987

DeWayne Howell (303) 973-7283

Preacher

Jim Reingrover (303) 973-5102

Assembly Schedule

Sunday

| | |
|--------------------|----------|
| Bible classes | 9:00 am |
| Morning assembly | 10:00 am |
| Afternoon assembly | 1:30 pm |

Wednesday

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Bible classes | 7:30 pm |
|---------------|---------|

This morning:

"Seven Warning Signs of Apostasy,"
by Jim Reingrover

This afternoon:

A Walk in Their Sandals Series
"Moses," by Rod Green