Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – August 25, 2019

Two Kingdoms, Two Ways

Or, How can we be in the world, but not of it?

***First, let’s make sure we know what is at stake.***

***Psalm 1:1, 2 speaks of two ways, describing each. . .***

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the *counsel* of the wicked

or stand in the *way* of sinners, or sit in the *seat* of mockers.

Note the progression from thoughts to behavior to character.

Wrong thoughts and deeds are rooted in cynicism (unbelief).

In contrast, verse 2 presents the positive side of the blessed. . .

But his delight is in the law of the Lord,

and on his law he meditates day and night.

The blessed person thinks and lives by God’s Word, His promises.

His acts are based upon and energized by God’s commandments.

His character is rooted in truth because He delights in God’s word.

***This is the first question: Which path are you traveling?***

There is a second question: If I am on God’s path, a citizen of God’s Kingdom and a part of His family, how do I live in a world which thinks wrongly, acts wickedly, and is cynical about truth?

***God’s Word warns us directly and indirectly about being pressured by our culture:***

Don’t let the world squeeze you into its mold. Rom. 12:1, 2

Don’t be entangled in the world’s affairs. 2 Timothy 2:4

Don’t be distracted by the cares of the world. Matt. 6:25-34

Don’t adopt the values / ethics of the culture. Titus 1:12, 13

Don’t be naive about your culture. Ephesians 2:1-3

***But we are not to be distant or detached! The Bible encourages us with many affirmations:***

We are salt and light to our culture. Matthew 5:2-16

We adapt to our culture for the Gospel. 1 Cor. 9:19-23

We pray for political leaders, “God’s ministers.” Rom. 13:1-7

We exercise our rights as citizens as necessary. Acts 16:35-40

We bypass comforts for the nations. Mark 8:34-38

***So what are some practical implications to keep in mind?***

It’s complex out there. Simple solutions are for weak minds.

It’s loud out there. Don’t be brainwashed or intimidated.

It’s irrational out there. A political party/agenda is not Truth.

It’s confusing out there. Don’t lose your biblical compass.

It’s distracting out there. Stay alert. Avoid emotionalism.

It’s discouraging out there. Don’t grow weary doing well.

It’s personal out there. You have a spiritual Enemy.

It’s not hopeless out there. God always is at work.

It’s not meaningless out there. You do make a difference.

It’s not forever out there. Jesus will make all things new.

***You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*** *Ephesians 4:22–24 (NIV84)*