

THE KINGDOM THAT MATTERS

Many things matter, but one (eternal) cause is far greater than anything else worth living for. Live for that cause. #kingdombusiness

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Nothing is wrong with making the most of your life, but if you forget why you are here in the first place, you've already missed the point.
- ❖ James 1:22-24 tells us that if we are hearers of the word and not doers, it's like looking at ourselves in a mirror, then immediately forgetting what we look like. We know our mission but we forget who we are. We lose our identity, or purpose.
- ❖ Paul, formerly Saul the persecutor, is a great biblical example of someone who didn't know his calling. He was adamant and driven, but for the wrong purpose.
- ❖ Saul was convinced that followers of Jesus were a danger to society, mainly because he was a Pharisee and they didn't believe that Jesus was the Messiah.
- ❖ It wasn't until Saul saw the light, *literally*, that he realized what he thought was the "will of God" actually wasn't and that he wasn't truly living for Kingdom of God (see Acts 9).
- ❖ "And [Saul] said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks [or goads]" (Acts 9:5).
- ❖ A prick/goat is a stick that is sharp at the end. Livestock breeders would use an ox goad or a prick to get their cows, oxes, bulls, rams, etc. to go in the right direction. The prick wouldn't hurt them, but it was just enough to instigate the cow to keep moving – to push them out of their comfort zone.
- ❖ Out of anger/frustration, the cow would use its back legs to kick against the prick; but in the end, that only caused the animal more pain.
- ❖ The Lord was comparing Saul to an ox, in essence saying, "I'm trying to steer you in the right direction, toward the eternal Kingdom. This is not your home and by fighting Me, you are just hurting yourself."
- ❖ Jesus mapped out our lives and Earth was never the final destination. So, don't live like "You Only Live Once," because it isn't true. Your soul lives on and so will your sins if they are not cleansed by Jesus' blood.
- ❖ Jesus has prepared a place for believers in His Father's house with numerous mansions. Why settle for a brick house, some nice stuff, and assets?
- ❖ "For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14). That youth, look, happiness and life you are trying to grasp will fall through your hands. The vapour will disappear and, if you live for the Kingdom of Earth, so will everything you lived for.
- ❖ Life is more than "living in the moment"; it's living on mission, knowing that we're not here for long.
- ❖ As 2 Corinthians 4:18 says, "So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see

KEY SCRIPTURES: James 1:22-24, 4:14; Isaiah 66:1; Acts 9:5; 2 Corinthians 4:18; Acts 22:9; Luke 12:31-32; Matthew 6:10

- now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever."
- ❖ Reach for the things that are invisible: the presence of Jesus, the Spirit of God, the voice of God, His favour, His will, His way!
- ❖ God encourages us to seek, ask, look for His Kingdom (e.g. Luke 12:31-32). First, seek God's Kingdom and the things that are right in His eyes, and then all the things you need will be provided for you.
- ❖ *Now* is the time to find God, because...*this can't be all there is*: more coronavirus cases, rising suicide rates, hopelessness, natural disasters – and then pile sin (our sins and the sins of others that affect us) on top of all that.
- ❖ Hear this today: *it's not all there is!* We have a hope that God will deliver us now and in the future and also from this world, so we won't be left stranded in this madness.
- ❖ Somewhere beyond, God has prepared a place called heaven where there's no pain, no tears. All God's people from every era will rise up, and those who are still on earth will be caught up to reunite with God forever.
- ❖ The purpose of the Kingdom is not to give people fear, but hope. Live for the Kingdom that matters. Stand for it. Fight for it.
- ❖ *There is something more.* Put God to the test. We've seen good stuff, bad stuff and then COVID. However, Jesus remains constant in the midst of the chaos.
- ❖ Nothing is unnoticed to God. your choices don't pass by Him. Don't ignore the pricks of God. A lot of things that were prioritized a year ago are irrelevant in 2021. Live for the things that *do* matter.
- ❖ Whatever happens, let it be well with your soul!

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Here are some things that can help us connect with God. How can you include them in your life? Discuss: *i)* Play a worship song. *ii)* Pray. Say things you're thankful for; pray for understanding; pray a list; sit in silence and think about Jesus. *iii)* Reflect and meditate on a passage of scripture.
2. How can we use social media (YouTube, TikTok, Zoom, texting, etc.) to give and receive encouragement for Kingdom-minded living?

PRAYER TIME

Lord, help my life to be on mission and focused on You. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start-up: What is something you do for which you have to use a great deal of focus? Do you enjoy doing it? Why or why not?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

- ✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) ☁️ (Think about)
- ⚡ (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

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Jesus, the Name above every other name
Jesus, the only One who could ever save
Worthy of every breath
we could ever breathe

We live for You, we live for You
~~~~~

Holy, there is no one like You  
There is none beside You,  
Open up my eyes in wonder and  
Show me who You are  
and fill me with Your heart  
And lead me in Your love  
to those around me  
~~~~~

I will build my life upon Your love,
It is a firm foundation
I will put my trust in You alone
and I will not be shaken

FAITH SANCTUARY ON-LINE SERVICES

SUNDAY @ 10:15 a.m. – Sunday Bible Study
SUNDAY @ 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service LIVE
SUNDAY @ 3:00 and 8:00 p.m. – Worship Service Rebroadcast
MONDAY @ 6:30 p.m. – Berean Bible Study on Zoom, Facebook, YouTube
WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 p.m. – Worship Service Rebroadcast

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

April 25, 2021



2021 ~ Live It! ~ 2021

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

*"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."
Matthew 6:33 NKJV*

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