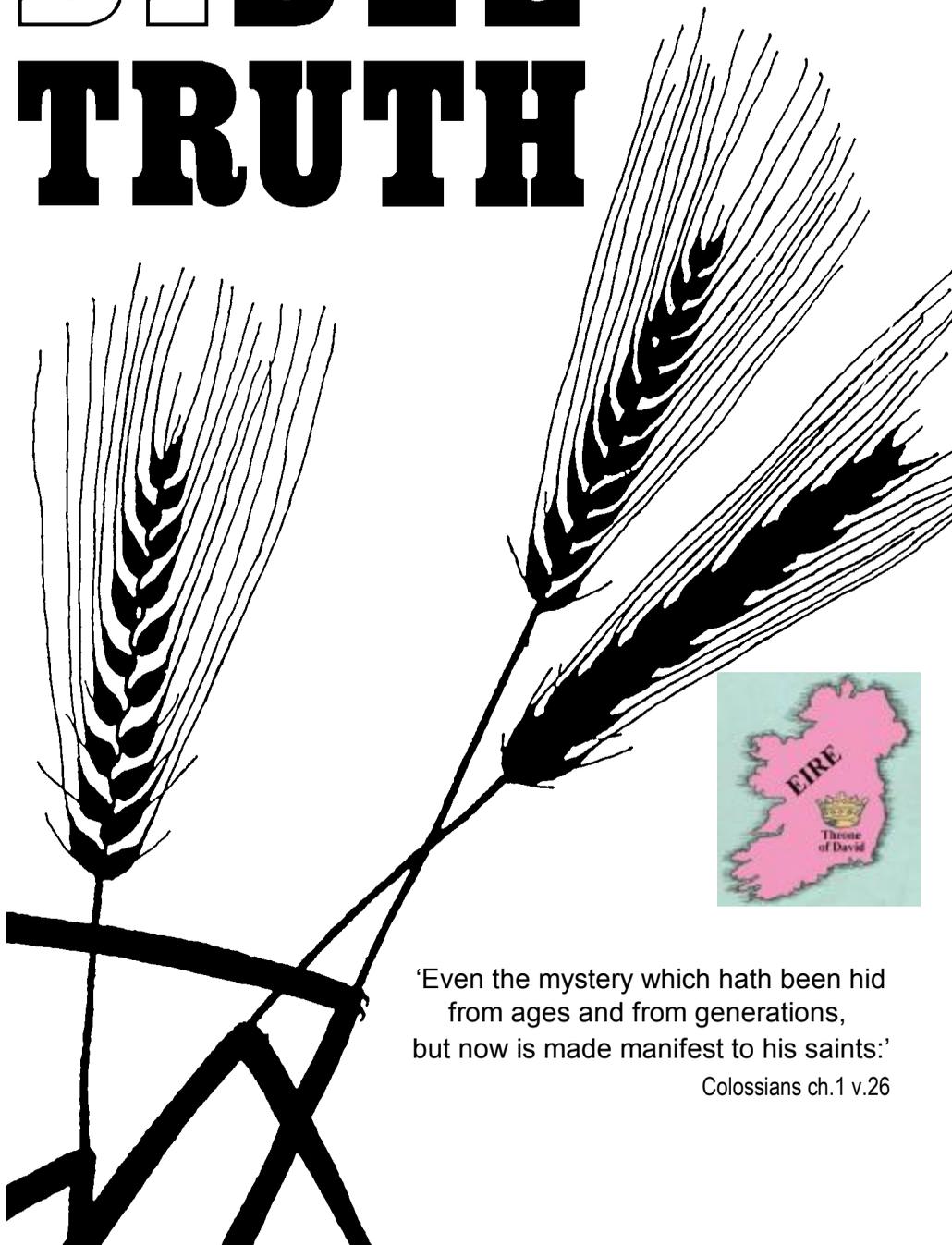


# BIBLE TRUTH

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'Even the mystery which hath been hid  
from ages and from generations,  
but now is made manifest to his saints:'

Colossians ch.1 v.26

# What Jesus Said About The Kingdom

by Pastor Ken Kemble, Uvalde, Texas, USA

It is interesting to note what people talk about. People talk about their children, their spouses, their jobs, their hobbies, their pets. How many times have you heard a proud grandmother talk about her grandchildren, or a sports fan talk about his favourite team, or a collector talk about that which he collects? These things are important to them, and they naturally want to talk about their favourite things with others.

It is interesting to note what preachers preach about — church, salvation, baptism, tithing, the infinite treasures to be found in the pages of the Holy Scriptures. These things are all important, and are a part of who we are.

We talk about the things that interest us, the things that are nearest and dearest to our hearts, and our conversation is a clear indicator of where our priorities lie.

What did Jesus talk about? The Scriptures tell us that Jesus repeatedly spoke of the Kingdom of God during His earthly ministry. It was the main thing He preached about, and so we know that is a subject that is very near and dear to His heart.

‘And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.’

Matthew ch.4 v.23

‘Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.’

Mark ch.1 vv.14-15

‘And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him.’

Luke ch.8 v.1

Since the Kingdom of God was so important to our Lord, so very dear to His heart, should it not also be the desire of our hearts? Let us look at what Jesus said about the Kingdom in Matthew’s Gospel ch.6 v.33.

'But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.'

This scripture is found in what is known as the Sermon on the Mount. Our Lord had been talking about the principles of the Kingdom, about what is truly important, about priorities. Jesus also said,

'Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also'.

Matthew ch.6 vv.19-21

Jesus told us not to worry about things like food, shelter or clothing, but to simply trust in Him, and to seek the Kingdom first. He promised us that if we would seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness first, He would see that we have everything we have need of. Thus we must seek His Holy Kingdom and His righteousness above all else! We must be about our Father's business.

## **First**

Jesus said '... seek ye **first** the Kingdom of God, ...'. This means that the Kingdom of God, and all that the Kingdom entails (chiefly, its righteous King, the Lord Jesus Christ), should be the primary focus of our every desire and aspiration. As devoted citizens of Christ's Holy Kingdom, we must seek what His will and desire for our lives is above all else.

We have all made plans. We all have things that we desire to come to pass in our lives. But are these things in line with His will for our lives? What we want and desire cannot conflict with or be more important to us than what He wants. God's will should be the primary focus of every Christian. The Apostle John relates the following,

'He must increase, but I must decrease'.

John ch.3 v.30

These words of John the Baptist should be the sentiment of every follower of Christ. We are to deny ourselves, forget about what our own plans are, and follow after Him.

'And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.'

Luke ch.9 vv.23-24

Often, the things we desire are temporal and fleeting. But the things of the Kingdom are eternal and of transcendent value. It is only right that we should seek what He wants, above what we want.

‘For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.’

2 Corinthians ch.5 vv.14-15

## Righteousness

‘... seek ye first the kingdom of God, and **his righteousness** ...’

All of our righteousnesses are as filthy rags in the sight of God (see Isaiah ch.64 v.6). This means that in our whole life, our very best effort at being righteous on our own merit still stinks. In our flesh, we are never going to rise up to God’s standard of righteousness. That is why we must seek to obtain his righteousness, which is ours only by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

‘But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.’

Romans ch.3 vv.21-26

‘For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God In him.’

2 Corinthians ch.5 v.21

Though we should constantly strive toward perfection (maturity), in our walk with Him (see Matthew ch.5 v.48), it is not through the keeping of the Law that we are made perfect, but through faith in Him.

‘For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.’

Romans ch.4 v.3

Do you believe God? If you do not believe God at His Word, if you do not know that you can trust Him with your life, let me encourage you to let go of your life, and place it in His care, and see if it is not the best thing you have ever done!

'For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.'

Matthew ch.16 v.25

You can trust God, He is more dependable than the air that we breathe, and '... Whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed'.

Romans ch.10 v.11

## Blessings

'... **and all these things** shall be added unto you.'

Matthew ch.6 v.33

Don't worry or fret over the things of this life. Our God knows what we need even before we know it, and He is more than able to take care of every need we will ever have.

'Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.'

Matthew ch.6 vv.25-32

We have God's solemn promise that if we will but put Him and His Holy Kingdom first in our lives, and seek His righteousness through faith, He will bless us with everything that we need in this life. What a great and wonderful God we have! So when trouble comes around, fret not dear friend! God will help. Just place Christ first in every area of your life, and He will take care of everything else.

'Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end ...'

Ephesians ch.3 vv.20-21

And Amen!