

Sunday, October 20, 2024

1 Timothy 4:13, "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching."

Title: Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand

Series: Life in the Spirit ... 1

Text: Matthew 3:1 - 3 and 4:1 - 17

Purpose: I want to MOTIVATE my congregation to be honest in their soul with the living Word (Christ Jesus) and the Holy Spirit allowing divine adjustments to our soul!

Introduction:

As we concluded our meditations on the book of Revelation with a devotional on chapter 22 we considered:

~ 1) The Celestial City; 2) Coming Soon; 3) Christ Jesus Confession

~ 1 Thessalonians 1:3, 9 and 10, "*remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (9) For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, (10) and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*"

~ "Life in the Spirit" saves us from a score of consequences; this we observed throughout the book of Revelation. Not the least of which are the wrath of God and the divine judgment of God.

~ After weeks of meditating on the theme of "Life in the Spirit," it seemed fitting to begin where Christ Jesus began.

1. Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand:

~ Matthew 3:1 - 3, "*In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, (2) "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (3) For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'"*"

Cf. Isaiah 40:1 - 5; Malachi 3:1 - 5 and 4:5 - 6

~ Matthew 4:1 - 17, (17) "*From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."*"

~ The meaning of the Greek word (G3340) the English translate as 'repent' is: 1) to change one's mind, i.e. to repent; 2) to change one's mind for the better, heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins.

2. Repentance from the Natural State:

~ 1 Corinthians 2:1 - 16, (14) "*The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (15) The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. (16) "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.*"

~ Colossians 1:3 - 29

~ 1 Peter 1:22 - 25, "*Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, (23) since you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; (24) for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, (25) but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you.*"

~ Titus 3:4 - 7, "*But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, (5) he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, (6) whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, (7) so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*"

3. Repentance from Personal Trespasses:

~ 1 John 1:6 - 10, "*If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. (7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. (8) If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*"

4. Repentance from Missed Placed Focus:

~ Colossians 3:1 - 4, "*If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (2) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (3) For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*"

Conclusion:

Romans 8:5 - 8, "*For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. (6) For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot (8) Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*"