



FAITH



**“The Kingdom of God has come near.
Repent and believe the Good News”
(Mark 1:15).**

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR

The kingdom of heaven can get confusing. What is it, and how should Christians view it today? To understand, we can look at the content of Jesus’ teaching on the kingdom. Throughout His public ministry He preached the gospel, focusing on His theme of “repent because the kingdom of heaven has come near” (Matt. 4:17). His parables illustrated the content of the kingdom; His miracles demonstrated the power of the kingdom; His teaching established the morals of the kingdom; His actions demonstrated His reign over the kingdom; and His death, burial, and resurrection inaugurated His kingdom. After He was glorified, the Spirit came and expanded His kingdom, and one day Jesus will return and consummate His kingdom.

We see from the Old Testament that Israel consistently rejected the Lord as their ruler. In 1 Samuel, God clearly tells Samuel that the people were not rejecting him as their judge, but the Lord as their king (1 Sam. 8:7). Despite their rejection, the Lord remained faithful and promised to one day send His Son—a direct descendant of King David—to rule over His people (Ps. 110:1). When Jesus announced that the kingdom of heaven had come near, He was letting people know that their King had come. However, they wanted to force Him to be their political ruler (John 6:15), which He would not allow. Rather,

IN THIS ISSUE

Missions Spotlight

Summer Reads

*Standing on His
Word—today’s
persecution*

*I Got It!
Personal faith story*

*Note from the Lewis
family*

Donning the Armor

Prayers of the People

Calendar Items

Jesus came to deliver His people from their slavery to sin and to establish Himself as ruler of their hearts (John 8:36).

This rule from the “inside-out” is seen in the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus establishes the morals of His kingdom. His subjects will not simply comply with outward actions, but will resist sin’s temptation and rule because they will be governed by the inward man. The sin that Jesus seeks to overthrow is that which tempts man to call his brother a fool (Matt. 5:22), to worship God while having interpersonal conflict (Matt. 5:24), or to look with lust (Matt. 5:28).

The morality of the Kingdom is so intrinsic that it is only realized by an inward regeneration and indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5)—the Spirit poured out upon the believer through the finished work of Christ (Titus 3:6; John 7:38-39). Paul later explains to the Ephesians that the Spirit strengthens the inner man with power and equates the Spirit’s work to Christ dwelling in the heart of the believer. The morality of the kingdom is established through obedience to Christ’s new command to “love as He has loved” through the indwelling Holy Spirit (John 13:34; Rom. 5:5).

Scripture makes it clear that entrance into the kingdom of heaven is only supplied through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (John 14:6; Acts 4:12). Those who confess Jesus as Lord and believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead will be saved (Rom. 10:9). This confession is an outward proclamation of an inward rule. The heart of man can only submit to the rule of Jesus through the promises of the new covenant that were ratified at Calvary (Ezek. 36:25-27; Luke 22:20). This new covenant is not of the letter but of the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:6). It is realized already in the spiritual realm, but not fully experienced in the physical world.

The “already” of the kingdom means that believers “are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His possession” (1 Pet. 2:9). We are transferred from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light (Col. 1:13), “re-created royalty” now charged with waging war against sinful desires (1 Pet. 2:11). We are citizens of heaven, which is not occupied with things of earth but with “righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit” (Rom. 14:17). As citizens, we must remind one another of who we are in Christ and that we have a new heart and new desires. As we remind one another of who now rules our hearts, we help each other see the foreign power of sin that seeks to establish a stronghold in our lives.

There is also a “not yet” of this kingdom. While we “re-created royalty” partake of the divine nature and live out our identity in Christ through growth in sanctification, entrance into the “eternal kingdom” will be “richly provided” (2 Pet. 1:11). Though our citizenship is currently in heaven, we eagerly await the return of our Savior who will transform our lowly body into the likeness of His glorious body (Phil. 3:20-21), and we love His appearing when He will abolish every rule, authority, and power that opposes Him (1 Cor. 15:24).

His kingdom has come near, but it has not yet been fully realized upon the earth. There are still many rebel hearts and rebel powers left to conquer. But one day every knee will bow before Him. All who resist His kingdom during their lifetimes will be delivered up to destruction (2 Pet. 3:7). But for those who loved His appearing, there is a promised crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8). And so every citizen cries out “*Maranatha!*”—Come Lord Jesus! (1 Cor. 16:22).



Maranatha!
Pastor Caleb

“The morality of the Kingdom is so intrinsic that it is only realized by an inward regeneration and indwelling of the Holy Spirit.”
—Caleb Schroeder

“The only way the kingdom of God is going to be manifest in this world before Christ comes is if we manifest it by the way we live as citizens of heaven and subjects of the King.”
—R. C. Sproul

“Apart from the transformative work of Christ, we are incapable of manifesting the divine qualities described in the Beatitudes.”
—Anonymous

GRACE RESOURCES

Missions of FCC



For 30 years Grace Resources has helped people not just thrive but survive through the various ministries it offers. Its purpose is to diminish hunger in the Antelope Valley and to share the love of Christ in a tangible way by providing services.

“The pandemic has adversely affected all of us in one way or another,” said Jeremy Johnson, Executive Director. “What is heartening during this disheartening time is how the community has come

together to meet the needs of those struggling. Volunteers graciously still pack and sort groceries, deliver them, and serve hot meals. And our donors have kept giving, demonstrating generosity like we’ve never seen before.”

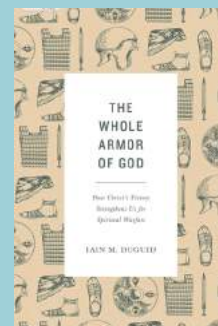
Grace Resources distributed more food to those in need during this pandemic. The center has fed at least 26,000 people per month, so their biggest need by far is food donations.

“We are approaching the light at the end of the tunnel, Jeremy said. “Many are getting vaccinated, including some on our staff, but we are still following the Covid guidelines when at the center.”

“Thank you all who have made Grace possible! Thank you all who have been a part of bringing hope.”

info@graceresources.org

SUMMER READS



The Christian life is a battle—a struggle against the world, sin and Satan. *The Whole Armor of God* by Iain M. Duguid reminds us we don’t have to fend for ourselves. God gave us Christ’s armor, and we have the same power that raised Him from the dead now at work inside us. The author unpacks Paul’s description of the armor in Ephesians 6 and invites us to put it on each day and rest in Christ’s finished victory knowing that our strength for the battle comes from Him.



Jesus was the master storyteller, and He told parables to help us comprehend the Kingdom of God clearly. John MacArthur helps us understand the *Parables*, a crucial matter for Christ followers.

Family of Fellowship



Family of Servants

STANDING ON HIS WORD

Rachel Counts, College Group

Four years ago, I began my crochet blog. Weekly I share new patterns and tutorials with my followers on various social media. And, I share about myself along with Bible verses here and there. The blog has grown beyond my wildest imagination, and I had no idea that God would use this platform to share my faith.

Most of the crochet community hangout on Instagram. I chat with, and get to know the crocheters, considering them friends. Throughout 2020, I stayed silent on political topics while many radical, feminist viewpoints were shared and people who disagreed were verbally attacked.

A few months ago, I realized that staying silent was simply not acceptable. How could I claim to know Christ yet not stand up for the unborn or for marriage as He designed it?

In March, I told my followers I am a conservative, pro-life Christian who believes marriage is between a man and a woman. I got incredible backlash in the comments—people I considered friends were calling me “trash” and bigoted.” Many said, “Christ wouldn’t say that.”

What saddened me most was the fact that many of the commenters claimed to be Christians. The truth is, their Jesus was different altogether—one created through a non-literal interpretation of the Bible. After I posted, a crochet magazine even cancelled my contract.

Before this experience, I confined persecution to situations seen in the Bible. This has been difficult, but I am thankful. I now have a better understanding of what it means to be persecuted for Christ. Trials and persecutions are coming and may be different than we expect, but I encourage you to be prepared and alert.



“Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ” (1 Pet. 1:13).



“If we do anything to further the Kingdom of God, we may expect to find what Christ found on that road—abuse, indifference, injustice, misunderstanding, trouble of some kind. Take it. Why not? To that you were called.”
—Elisabeth Elliott



Family of Fun

I GOT IT!

Lu Andrews (as told to)

As a little girl in Oklahoma, I went to church a few times with my aunt. It was more like tent meetings and nothing stuck.

My mom was young when I was born; I never knew my dad. I moved to Hawthorn, Calif. at 19. I married Eric, and moved to Ridgecrest where he worked on the naval base. We eventually moved to Lancaster.

In early 2002, Eric had health issues. I worried about everything and especially about losing him. I was afraid. I told a co-worker that 'there must be more to life than this,' and she said there was but didn't elaborate.

One day I was weeping at the mailbox at the end of my driveway. My neighbor Lorraine Dishman came over and asked if I needed help. A few minutes later at Lorraine's dining table, we prayed and wept together.

Lorraine invited me to her Bible

study. I looked around and saw a bunch of happy, joyful people. I wanted that.

We had been studying Matthew for awhile; I had a thousand questions. I just didn't see the light. Then one night, the leader asked us to look at John 14:6.

"November 2002 Lu was sitting on the arm of the sofa at Bible study," Lorraine said. "Out of nowhere she yelled, 'I've got it!' Everyone looked around trying to figure out what happened."

Lu continued. I wanted to go to heaven and had just realized He was the way. Later, standing in my kitchen, I accepted Christ. I told Lorraine, announced it at the next Bible study, and was baptized in my leader's spa.

A deep peace came over me. I knew the Lord was working in me, and I can look back over my life and see Him working all along.



"Jesus told them, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me'" (John 14:6).

"A deep peace came over me. I can look back over my life and see Him working all along."
—Lu Andrews

"When a Christian realizes his citizenship is in heaven, he will start acting responsibly on earth."
—Joni Erickson Tada



Family of God



Family of Faith



A NOTE FROM CURTIS AND DEANN LEWIS

We humans often are so focused on what we want that we forget of whom we ask. We love the gifts over the giver of gifts. And, if not careful, we idolize the gift and forget to worship the One from whom all blessings flow.

Many people are joining together and praying for our little Natalie. We pray for miracle upon miracle. We know He is able! But, we all must make the giver of the gifts our greatest joy.

It is easy to take something good, right and pure and get it all twisted. Instead, each day our hearts should cry out for intimacy with God—and pray for His glory, and His honor, and His renown. From that beginning point, we can plead with our good, good Father for healing for our Natalie so that she can speak again. And we can fast, intercede, and knock on the door to ask for mercy. But if the answer is wait, or if the answer is no, don't fret, oh heart.

Remember it is not the gift our hearts so desperately need but the King who sits upon the throne, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, and the great I Am who makes all things right on that day so quickly coming.



Family of Prayer

"Pray for Natalie" on Facebook



The Zoe Clothing Company is giving all proceeds from the Natalie T-shirt to the Lewis family.

Contact:

Jason@faithtoyou.com



Dear Father, this day I put on your whole armor. May your belt keep me from lies and deception; your breastplate protect me from temptation; your sandals take your light where you lead; your shield guard me from the flaming arrows of the enemy; your helmet protect my mind and thoughts; and your Sword demolish strongholds. Amen!

For info on the GoFundMe project for the Lewis family, contact Jason@faithtoyou.com

GOD'S GOT THIS!

Steve Smith, Elder

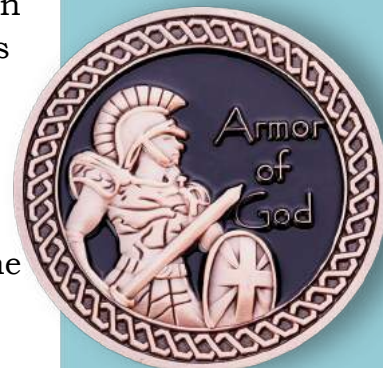
Believers are called to be light in a dark world—which is not always an easy task. American Christians are used to worshipping freely, but this is now threatened as cancel-culture grips our country. The government pushes the laws, political agendas get changed, and Satan's alive and well always on the attack wanting to confuse us. Whatever your challenges right now, GOD'S GOT THIS! He is bigger than all of it. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-present. He is the Creator, and He is sovereign over all of life.

These days might be described as a hurricane. The eye of the storm is calm, but chaos surrounds it. In the midst of our chaos, we, too, can have calm—a peace on which we can depend. For a believer, that peace is God and Jesus in us. Our peace points to our Father and our Savior and shows others His light in a dark world. Yes, even amidst the chaos, we are to worship, praise, honor, and glorify God. The saying is true: "Know Jesus, Know Peace; No Jesus, No Peace." There is no peace with God without the Son of God.

Many wonder what is happening in the world. Some may question their salvation. Others believe Satan's lies that money, power, health, self-esteem, and possessions are most important. The only thing that matters for eternity is salvation, and the only one that saves us is Jesus. Romans 10:9 reads, "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved!" Not maybe, not might be, or can be, but you will be saved. That is great news! That's the power of the gospel to those who believe. And when you are saved, God's Word says you will never lose your salvation (John 10:28; Eph. 1:13-14; Rom. 8:35-39). That's more great news!

Brothers and sisters, we are not left defenseless. God's Word says we are strengthened by Him. We have the armor of God to spiritually battle the pandemonium in our world (Eph. 6:12-20). God's armor replicates the armaments of a soldier in battle. With God's full armor on, we are mighty against the schemes of the devil. "If He is for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31).

In the midst of your storm, I hope you find peace in the gospel of Jesus Christ and while in the eye of the storm, you focus on God and bring praise and glory to Him in all things (Eph. 1:1-12). Then you will be a light in a dark world.



*"Put on the
WHOLE
armour of God,
that ye may be
ABLE
to
STAND
AGAINST
the wiles of
the devil"
(Ephesians
6:11 KJV).*

Truth
Righteousness
Gospel of
Peace
Faith
Salvation
The Word of
God
Praying

*Living for the Kingdom,
Steve*



A – adoration

C – confession

T – thanksgiving

S – supplication

Pray for:

*Nicole Kornoff for healing of cancer.

*Natalie Lewis for healing of a brain injury and salvation for those whose lives she's touched around the world.

*Families who have recently lost loved ones.

*Nick Ford with colon cancer.

*Tobie Keiser who's recovering from surgery.

*Many who have physical and medical needs.

*Six-year-old Hunter for the surgery on his optic nerve.

*Pastor Noel's friends the Dax family who lost their husband and father to a heart attack at age 51.

*Grace Resources to continue serving AV and for people to find Christ.

*Justin and Jessica Ludwig and their eight-week-old son Jordan who is in the hospital with seizures.

*Jean, the mother of Dustin who has been in a coma after a motorcycle accident; he's coming home for hospice.

*Bill and Mary Rocco for continued healing from an auto accident.

*Elena Beuhring's son Wayne who is recovering from surgery—for mental and physical healing.

*Baby Emmerit Porter for continued improvement and his parents Michael and Krystal as they care for him.

*The many unspoken prayer requests of Faith families and friends.

If you would like your prayer needs to immediately go out to the church people, contact Laura Cox: chozengr17777@aol.com.



Family of Worship

All verses are from the Christian Standard Bible unless otherwise indicated.



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FaithToYou.com/info

Pastor Caleb Schroeder
661-267-2200
Faithtoyou.com

Newsletter—editorial
comments, corrections,
and story ideas:
newsletter@faithtoyou.com

UPCOMING

May 29: 10 a.m.
Ladies Tea*

May 30: 5–8 p.m.
All Church BBQ*
Deserts Sands Park

June 6: 6:30–8 p.m.
Worship night*

June 7–11
Vacation Bible School*
Choose 9 a.m.–Noon or
3:30–6:30 p.m.

June 13: 6:30–8 p.m.
Family Movie Night*

June 20
Father's Day
Return CareNet bottles*

June 27: 6:30–8 p.m.
Worship night*

July 5: TBA
Father-Son Conference*

July 11: 6:30-8 p.m.
Hymns & Ice Cream*

July 18: 6:30 p.m.
Family game night*

July 25: 6:30 p.m.
Park Night Desert
Sands Park*

August 7: TBA
Women's Worship*

August 28: TBA
Women's Conference

August 29: 5:30 p.m.
BBQ Cook-off*

Wednesday 9:30 a.m.
Evangelism Prayer*

*More info at:
faithtoyou.com or
faithtoyou.com/info