

## Kingdom Perspectives – Part 2

Welcome to Kingdom Perspectives, Part 2, September 17, 2008. First poster. In the last session, we explored the root of the kingdom of Satan and the root of the Kingdom of God, which is the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, since Jesus Christ has been given all authority. The point of this is that with every thought my will is making a choice which ends up being the same choice, God or un-God. That is to say my will, will make every choice based on how God views reality, or how I view reality from some frame of reference other than how God views reality, which is self determination. Self determination being the root of self on the throne, which is the root of what the Bible calls the flesh, which functions in a kingdom called the world system, whose king is Satan, and everything that Satan does, is anti-Christ. In the Kingdom of God we are, in essence, being God determined, which means for us as Christians that we're Jesus determined, since God is summing up all things in His Son for us. We then turn by focusing on Jesus into what the Bible calls the spirit, where our focus is on Jesus Christ and Him crucified. This is to function in the Kingdom of God and serve our King, Jesus Christ.

Next poster. We then looked at kingdom content because kingdom content can be understood only by understanding the previous poster—that is the root of the two kingdoms, because there are only two. In the kingdom of Jesus Christ, the content is everything which is summed up in Jesus. Therefore, by definition, the kingdom of Satan, which is anti-Christ, is everything else. In other words, everything that is not all summed up in Jesus.

Next poster. This refers to the battle because the battle is between these two kingdoms and these are fundamental rules about the spiritual battle in which we are engaged. There is a battle. The battle is between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. The battle for us is fought in your mind. That's why the Bible talks about being transformed by the renewing of your mind. The battle is fought over your next thought. The battle with each thought is fought over the question of what is truth, because truth is going to be either what God is and how God views everything else, which is to say how God views reality, which is to say the Word of God; or it's going to be truth defined by some definition that comes out of your natural mind, which is to say, self determined. The battle has no neutral ground. The battle has no neutral time. And the fundamental problem with the walk of every Christian is we refuse to walk according to the rules of this battle. But this is from the word of God. This is the battle and how it is fought.

Next poster. Now today we're going to move into a new view, if you will, of what I have just described. Don't try to absorb this poster all at once. Let me talk you through the stages so that it'll be clear to you. This poster will depict our erroneous views of these two kingdoms. It will depict our erroneous views that explain why we do not sum up all things in Jesus. Now begin by noting the key at the bottom. The red letter "G" stands for the Kingdom of God. That's depicted by the solid red rectangles which are under the letter "G." The black letter "S" stands for Satan. And that is depicted by the solid black rectangles which represent the kingdom of Satan. The black letter "M" stands for my kingdom. That kingdom is depicted by the solid black rectangle under the letter "M." Now truth is what God is and how God views everything else. When I hold a view contrary to how God views it, then my view is a figment. It is what the Bible calls a vain imagination exalting itself against the knowledge of God. That vain imagination comes from my mind, not from God. That vain imagination does not match reality because truth is how

God views reality, not how my natural mind views reality. That figment of mine is represented by the stippled lines of ether red or black. On the left vertical axis, I've used two frames of reference; namely my view and God's view. On the horizontal axis, at the top, I've given three frames of reference. The first is when I was unsaved, after I became saved, and then at death. By death, I'm meaning the time that I physically die and my body goes into the grave. My spirit departs the body and goes to Heaven.

Now first look at the unsaved condition. According to my view in the unsaved condition, there's only one kingdom and that kingdom is all mine. In my view there is no Kingdom of God and there is no kingdom of Satan. I am functioning on my own. I am my own god. I consider myself to be self determined. I do what is right in my own eyes. Truth is whatever I declare it to be. I am in bondage to no one and in bondage to no thing. I am free. I am free because from my natural mind I define freedom to be the state of functioning in self determination. So I match my own definition of being free.

Now all of that makes for a very nice imagination. How well does it match up with how God views these kingdoms? Shift down the left axis to God's view under the unsaved condition. In God's view in the unsaved condition, there are two kingdoms—namely that of God and that of Satan. There is no neutral ground and no neutral time between these two kingdoms. Positionally speaking, every human being either belongs to the Kingdom of God or belongs to the kingdom of Satan. The unsaved person belongs to the kingdom of Satan in that unsaved condition. There is no third kingdom. The human being never has a kingdom. The kingdom that belongs to the human in the unsaved human's view is really only a figment. It is a vain imagination because it is functioning in its entirety in the kingdom of Satan in the unsaved condition. One definition of insanity is to be divorced from reality. To the Christian, defining truth as what God is and how God views everything else, reality is whatever God says it is, not what I declare it to be. The view of the unsaved person that there's only one kingdom and that that kingdom belongs to him, is totally divorced from reality, thus, is a form of insanity. The unsaved person is a slave to Satan while pronouncing himself as totally free. This is blindness because he thinks he has a kingdom when in reality he never has such a kingdom. It is depravity because every single thing that person is doing in the unsaved condition is separated from God and not based on how God views reality.

Now shift over to my view in the saved condition. Surely now that I'm saved, my view must match reality. In my view, in the saved condition, there are four kingdoms. There is a kingdom of Satan, but I have no contact with it. In fact, in my view, there is a huge gap between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. Thus, there is much neutral ground and much neutral time. There is a Kingdom of God and I acknowledge that. Since I am saved, I am connected to the Kingdom of God. However, my view as a Christian usually includes two other kingdoms, each belonging to me; thus topped by the letter "M." One of my kingdoms is a subset of the Kingdom of God. In my view, a portion of my existence is devoted to the Kingdom of God. However, the usual circumstance is that I remain king in my mind over that subset of my existence that belongs to the Kingdom of God. I set the parameters of my function in the Kingdom of God. I retain control over the task, the time, and the place. I determine how much of my time, energy, gifts and possessions are to be put to use in my ministry for the Kingdom of God.

The last kingdom that's existent in my view in the saved condition is, in my mind, in this vast neutral ground between the kingdom of Satan and the Kingdom of God. This kingdom remains entirely my kingdom. This is the vast area that I still regard as entirely mine. I spend my money and my time fulfilling my desires all under my kingship. I see myself as doing plenty for the Kingdom of God and nothing for the kingdom of Satan. My kingdom, I view as rightly mine. God is to be pleased with whatever sacrifice that I decide He should be pleased with. My sacrifice, with which I think He should be pleased, is my kingdom that is within His Kingdom, according to my point of view.

Now in my saved condition, how well does my view match the reality of God's view? Shift your eyes down to God's view of the kingdoms in the saved condition. In God's view there are still only two kingdoms—namely God's and Satan's. There is no neutral ground and no neutral time between these two kingdoms. “I the Lord do not change.” Only one change has taken place between God's view of my unsaved condition and God's view in the saved condition and it is not a change in the two kingdoms. The change is in my position in relation to the two kingdoms. I am now saved; and thus, connected to God's Kingdom. In the unsaved condition, I belonged entirely to Satan. Once God gets hold of me, I am positionally His. I belong to Him. However, God being love and love requiring choice so that it may be relational, God leaves me with a choice. And I still choose to hold views that are not consistent with His views. And, therefore, do not function in a manner consistent with my position of being in the Kingdom of God. We need to always remind ourselves the difference in position and function. We know we are positioned in the Kingdom of God through the blood of Christ. We know we still sin promiscuously. So it should be clear to any Christian that there's a vast difference between our position in Christ and our functioning.

Both of these kingdoms that I think belong to me in the saved condition are complete figments. What I view as my kingdom within His Kingdom is a figment. It doesn't exist except in my vain imagination. Furthermore, what I view as my kingdom in the saved condition in between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan is a figment. It does not exist. Whatever part of my life that I am not summing up in Jesus as a Christian, is functioning in the kingdom of Satan. That part of my life is anti-Christ and doing the work of Satan. This part of my thought life as a Christian is a vain imagination that is exalting itself against the knowledge of God as described in II Corinthians 10:5.

So my view in the saved condition is insane. It is insane because it is divorced from the reality of how God views things. So what part of my view in the saved condition is insane, meaning divorced from reality? My view of a vast neutral ground between the kingdom of Satan and the Kingdom of God is a figment. My view that I have a kingdom within the Kingdom of God is a figment. And my view of a large personal kingdom outside of either other kingdom is a figment. They are all divorced from reality, which is how God views things.

Now look at the stage of death. Death, in I Corinthians 15:26, is called the final enemy. Well that's true in the sense that death to the physical body is the last major hurdle that God overcomes in our lives. That last overcoming occurs at the resurrection which takes place at the time of the rapture as described in I Thessalonians 4:16-17. However, physical death is also a

friend. At the time of physical death our spirits will depart to be with Jesus Christ. We will see Him finally as He truly is and not through a glass dimly, as described in I Corinthians 13:12. Thus, we can join in with what Paul wrote in Philippians – to die is gain. II Corinthians 5:8 says absent from the body, present with the Lord. So in that sense death is gain. It is gain because when we see Him, we shall be like Him, I John tells us. Finally our view will match His. We will finally see that there always were only two kingdoms. We will finally see that there never was any gap between two kingdoms. And we will finally see that we never had a kingdom. We will see that anything that we thought was ours was always a figment of our vain imagination exalting itself against the knowledge of God. We will see that whatever we thought was ours was an area in which we were slaves of Satan functioning as anti-Christ in our thought life and decision making. We will see that the huge gap that existed in our view and the view of God during the entirety of our time on Earth, including after salvation, both in the unsaved and saved condition, was covered by the blood of Jesus Christ. That is called the forbearance of God because God held back His wrath. And then it's the grace of God because we learn belatedly when we see Jesus face to face, the magnitude of our time on Earth, including after salvation that was functioning in the kingdom of darkness, doing the work of Satan. In my view those will be the major part of the tears that Jesus wipes away when we see Him face to face. It will not be the tears over being relieved from physical suffering. It will be the tears that are shed by a being for the first time revealing the magnitude of his own sin compared to the holiness of God; and thereby, receiving the revelation finally of the magnitude of the amazing grace of God. That will fulfill Ephesians 1:6 when we will give full praise to what is called in Scripture the greatness of the glory of the grace of God. But for us to receive that revelation, it will await a time when our view of these kingdoms matches His view of these kingdoms. And that will be the fuel that will lead us to join the Heavenly chorus singing “Holy, holy, holy” as mentioned in Revelation 4:8. That “Holy, holy, holy”, the ultimate superlative about God will flow freely from the lips of a person who has seen the magnitude of the grace of God because that grace is other than. It is a holy grace.

Next poster. Now look at various views that relate to the life of a Christian that flow out of our revelation about these things. The first revelation is how I see God. God has simplified that for us. We're not to be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Jesus Christ. He came as Jesus, the incarnate Son of God, to give us a close-up view. No man can see the fullness of an infinite, omnipresent, holy God. But God made Himself visible in space and time in human form in the Person of His Son. Thus, we have many eyewitness descriptions of what God looks like in human form. We have the Word of God in written form that preserves for us and gives us an accurate rendition of the incarnate Son of God during His time on planet Earth. For all of those reasons, Jesus would simply say in John 10:30 – The Father and I are one. And in John 14:9 – He who has seen Me has seen the Father. As Christians we do not see the Father God directly. We look at Jesus. By looking at Jesus, we see the Father God. No one can have a correct view of the Father God without looking at Jesus Christ and Him crucified. That's why Paul would know only Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Paul would teach only Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Paul would boast only of Jesus Christ and Him crucified. We do see the Father God, but indirectly so, by looking at Jesus. Our view of Jesus is therefore given as the solid line and our view of the Father God is the stippled line.

The second Christian view relates to the Father God seeing me. The Father God does not take a direct view of me either just like I do not take a direct view of Him. The Father God looks directly at His Son Jesus. However He sees Jesus is how He sees us. This is because we are hid in Christ, according to Colossians 3:3. We have the righteousness of Christ, according to II Corinthians 5:21. We are one spirit with Christ, according to I Corinthians 6:17. We are His children in Christ, according to I John 3:2. Thus, the Father God's view of me is shown as a stippled line. This is because He sees me indirectly by looking at His Son. His view of the Son, being direct, is written as a solid line.

The third frame of reference is what relates to us in our Christian walk on planet Earth after salvation. This has to do with what others see in me and through me. As a child of God, I have a choice to display one of two things to others. First, I can display the self me. This relates to my contact with other human beings flowing out of the pathway and through the frame of reference of self on the throne. If I do that, others will see me in all of my self glory. They will not see the spirit me in my new creation glory. They will see me as being more or less like them. I will ultimately display to them that I am self-conscious, self-centered, self-pity, self-righteous, self-condemned, self preserving, self-ish, and self-oriented in all of its various forms, to one degree or another. I will assess life through the cocoon of carnality by the frames of reference of cost, comfort, convenience, and control. When I do that, by displaying the self me, I block their view of the new creation spirit within me, so they notice nothing different about me. By blocking the expression of the new creation spirit me by displaying self, I simultaneously block their view of Jesus because they are to see Jesus through me. But they can't see Jesus through me if I'm displaying self me and not spirit new creation me. Simultaneously I block their view of the Father God. This is to walk with self on the throne, which is what the Bible calls the flesh. So if I choose as an act of the will to focus on self and display that to others, though I am saved positionally and will spend eternity in Heaven with Jesus Christ, during the time on planet Earth I will bring no glory to God. I will bring no maximal testimony to others about God. And I will display only self while blocking their view of the new creation me, their view of Jesus Christ, and their view of the Father God. And they will say, well, I can do everything you do without your God. I don't see anything that God has done in your life. And our testimony will die. Our glory to God will die. Access to the abundant life will die. The church that I participate in, if others collectively approach the same way, will die.

The other option that I can display to others is the spirit me. This is my new creation self that according to Ephesians 4:24 has been created in righteousness and true holiness in the image of God. I initiate this display by denying self. I do not have the power to control self. But remember God never takes away choice. I have a choice of what to look at. If I look at self, I will display self. If I look at Jesus Christ through my new creation self, I will begin to deny self. But ultimately self must be controlled. I do not have the self power to deny self. But when I look at Jesus and look through the identity that I now have in Jesus and I behold Jesus Christ and Him crucified, I'm now joining in the work of the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit came to bear witness of Jesus and the Holy Spirit came to give glory to Jesus. Then the fruit of the Spirit, as mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23, will begin to exude, including the fruit of self control. That is to function according to what Romans 8:2 calls the law of the Spirit. What is the law of the Spirit? The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus. I am not living life in Christ Jesus so long as I'm living in self. When I begin to look at Jesus through my new creation identity and not look at

self, I begin to fulfill Philippians 2:12-13. That's where it tells us to work out our salvation. Yet it is God willing and working within you. I begin to work it out by fixing my gaze on Jesus through my new creation spirit identity. I fix my gaze upon Jesus. When I do that, which is my act of the will, then God wills and works within me for His good pleasure to begin to transform me into the image of His Son which includes the fruit of self control under the power of the Holy Spirit. So long as I'm functioning in self, the Holy Spirit's power will never be released because I'm bearing witness of self, not Jesus. And I'm bringing glory to self and not Jesus. As others see my new creation self, they begin to see Jesus Christ indirectly which is what the stippled line means. They do this by seeing Christ in me. By seeing Jesus Christ in me indirectly, they also begin to see the Father God indirectly.

This is when I begin to fulfill these Scriptures. II Corinthians 5:20 – I have become an ambassador to represent Jesus Christ. II Corinthians 3:3 – I have become a living epistle that tells a true story of Jesus Christ. II Corinthians 4:7 – I have become an earthen vessel that brings this treasure to others. So I repeat, how do I see God? I look at Jesus. How does God see me? By looking at Jesus, for I am hid in Christ. How do others see Jesus and the Father God? By seeing Jesus Christ in me. But that only occurs when I display my new identity of my new spirit, which is my new creation self, so that they see Christ in me, and do not see my old frame of reference of self on the throne. These are the views of a Christian.

I hope you can see the linkage. If you do not understand the root of these two kingdoms where every thought, the battle is fought over choosing God or un-God, you will not function in the spirit realm during the remaining time as a Christian on Earth. If you don't understand the kingdom content—that the kingdom of God's content is whatever is all summed up in Jesus. Anything that is not all summed up in Jesus is functioning in the kingdom of Satan. You will not function in the spirit displaying Jesus, if you do not grasp that there is a battle. That battle is between the Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. That battle is fought in your mind. That battle is fought over your next thought. And that battle is fought over the question of what is truth? And there is no neutral ground in that battle and there's no neutral time in that battle. If you do not grasp those concepts, then you will drift. And when you drift, you have an aggressive pull of self on the throne which is the sin nature. No one drifts to function according to these Christian views. No one functions according to how God views reality, except they pay attention and set the mind. And it begins with understanding the root of these two kingdoms, understanding the content of these two kingdoms, understanding the battle between these two kingdoms and how it's fought, and understanding our kingdom views and how they compare with the kingdom views of how God views this reality.

So each of these teachings is linked. Each of these teachings is a separate way of viewing these fundamental foundation truths about the Christian life, and hopefully based on how God views reality, and not how Buddy views reality.

So my time is up and I thank you for yours.