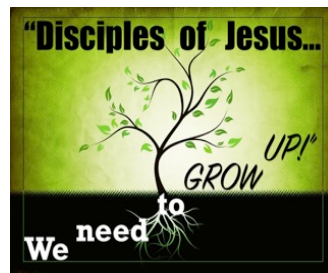


“Disciples of Jesus ... We need to GROW UP!”

Part 19: “WITNESS ... light shining in the darkness!”

Acts 1:1-11; Matthew 5:13-16



Introduction: We are witnessing a clash of cultures that may more accurately be called a “clash of kingdoms!”

Our calling as disciples of Jesus is to TESTIFY to the truth of God’s kingdom, the kingdom of LIGHT!!

Disciples of Jesus are called to testify to the truth of all that His Spirit has revealed in His Word concerning the kingdom of God.

Disciples of Jesus Christ are called to shine light into the darkness, pointing to the only solution: the reign of Jesus Christ on the earth.

I. Disciples of Jesus Christ have “LIGHT” to shine!

Matthew 5:13-16 ...

In His “Sermon on the Mount” and His “Sermon on the Plain” Jesus was speaking to His disciples.

The rapid decline of biblical morality is the result of much of the visible church losing its “saltiness”.

Most people hear Jesus’ words and think He is saying our good works are the light we shine to the world.

It is the message of Christ that is the light we are to shine!

John 3:16-21: “This is the judgment: the Light has come into the world and people loved the darkness rather than the light” (vs. 19).

I Peter 2:9: “... that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

Colossians 1:12-13: “... who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light” (vs. 12).

II. Disciples of Jesus are called to testify to the Light!

The only way to shine the light of Christ to the world is through the proclamation of the Gospel.

It is only the light of Jesus Christ that can transform the human heart.

I John 1:1-7: “GOD is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. ... if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin” (vss. 5,7).

Acts 1:6-8, 8:4 ... It is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that the Spirit uses to convert the soul, to bring new life, to call people out of darkness.

Romans 10:14-17: “... how are they to hear without someone preaching? ... So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the Word of Christ!” (vss. 14,17).

II Timothy 2:24-26: “And the Lord’s servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach ... correcting his opponents with gentleness ...” (vss. 24-25).

III. Disciples of Jesus WILL accomplish God’s purpose through our testimony.

Isaiah 55:10-11 (6-9): “... so shall my Word be ... it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”

When you fulfill your responsibility as His witness, God works through you!

I Corinthians 3:6-11: “... God gave the growth. ... For we are God’s fellow workers. ...” (vss. 6,9).

Not everyone is going to listen or believe or come out of the kingdom of darkness.

II Corinthians 4:1-6, 2:15-16: “... we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing ...” (2:15).

Disciples of Jesus are called to testify to the truth of all that His Spirit has revealed in His Word concerning the kingdom of God.

“As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending YOU!” (John 20:21)