

WELCOME TO GOD'S BEAUTIFUL ALTERNATIVE

If you've had enough of the heartache, hardship, and hate of a world at war with God and you're ready to absolutely THRIVE in the life-giving, eternity-changing calling your Designer has designed you to fulfill, then you are right where God wants you to be! We are a community of imperfect people sincerely pursuing God's absolute best for ourselves and everyone around us. That means if there is anything we can do to help you take your next step in following Christ and finding His calling on your one and only life, we are right next to you at whatever cost. If you've got questions, or want to speak to a pastor, or would like to ask for prayer, grab that pen you got with this handout and fill out one of those CONNECT CARDS that was along for the ride. Other than that, we sincerely hope you have an incredible morning marked by a life-changing encounter with the risen and reigning King Jesus Christ.

EVERYONE WANTS TO BUILD SOMETHING GREAT

The problem is finding the right opportunity. Fortunately, we've got a gaggle of life-changing, eternity-shaping options for you. When you serve with One Missoula Church, you help other people rise to become all that God made them to be. Here are a couple key areas we can multiply your time, energy, and willingness to help others:

- **KidsMin (birth-5th grade)** – bring love, joy, and biblical wisdom to young lives
- **Host & Greeter Team** – MASSIVELY important opportunity to help people know they are not only welcome, but WANTED here
- **Event Team** – help us put together anything from special events to simple hangouts so that we can make connections, deepen friendships, and make memories
- **Production Team** – leverage lighting, screen, computer, and sound systems to make the eternity-shaping message of Christ accessible to all
- **Worship Band** – sing or play guitar, bass, drums, and keys with others while building the church and pointing one another to Christ



WEEK 1: DECLARING VICTORY

August 22, 2021

The hope of the Gospel in this life is that people are set free from their sins (Romans 6:17-18) and empowered by the Holy Spirit to obey Jesus (Ezekiel 26:27; Galatians 5:16). This affects every single aspect of life (Colossians 3:17). Imagine what the world would be like if many many people started to live in the freedom and power they have in Christ.

Habakkuk 2:14 - For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of Yahweh, like the waters covering the sea.

The present teaching in the majority of the powerless, divided, declining western churches distorts and disregards many Bible passages in order to say that the world is falling apart and there is nothing we can do about it other than wait for Jesus to evacuate us out. Fortunately, after a hundred years of popularity, this teaching is finally losing ground to increasing scriptural challenge. Our goal today is to demonstrate that many sincere Christians have

unknowingly adopted “filters and lenses” that lead to contradicting the biblical message of God’s Good News.

2 Peter 3:16b - There are some things in [Paul's letters] that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. (See also Luke 6:43-44, and Mark 13:22)

Today is going to trigger A LOT of “what-about’s?” and a lot of “how does that work?” It is going to take a whole series (and beyond) to deal with these ideas. My plea and prayer is that you will be patient and refuse to let your unanswered questions destroy the work God wants His Scripture to do in your life.

Acts 17:11-12 - Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.¹² Many of them therefore believed, with not a few Greek women of high standing as well as men. (See also 1 John 4:1)

Throughout history, there have been two competing views about the Bible’s prophecy of the future that have held the majority position at different times and in different places:

- 1. Things TREND downward, and the world worsens before the End**
- 2. Things TREND upward, and the world improves before the End**

Let’s play a game called “Which one does this sound like?”

Old Testament Example:

Daniel 2:31-45 - “You, O king, were looking and, look, there was one great statue. This statue was huge and its brilliance extraordinary, standing there before you, and its appearance was frightening.³² The head of this statue was of fine gold, its chest and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze,³³ its legs of iron, its feet, part of them of iron and part of them of clay.³⁴ You were looking on until a stone was chiseled out—that not by hands—and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay, and it broke them in pieces.³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold all at once broke into pieces and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floor, and the wind carried them away and any trace of them could not be found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and it filled the whole earth.³⁶ “This was the dream, and now we will tell its interpretation to the king.³⁷ You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power and the might and the glory,³⁸ and also human beings wherever they dwell, the animals of the field and the birds of heaven—he has given into your hand and made you ruler over all of them—you are the head of gold.³⁹ And after you another kingdom inferior to yours will arise, and another third kingdom of bronze that will rule over the whole earth.⁴⁰ And a fourth kingdom will be strong as iron, and just as iron crushes and smashes everything, and as iron shatters all of these other metals, so it will crush and it will shatter these nations.⁴¹ And just as you saw the feet and the toes, partly potter’s clay and partly iron, it will be a divided kingdom; and some hardness of the iron will be in it, just as you have seen the iron mixed with the wet clay.⁴² And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so part of the kingdom will be strong and partly brittle.⁴³ And in that you saw the iron was mixed with wet clay, so they will mix in marriage and they will not cling to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.⁴⁴ And in the day of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, and the kingdom will not be left for another nation, and it will bring an end to all these kingdoms, but it will stand forever.⁴⁵ Inasmuch as you saw that a stone from the mountain was chiseled out but not by hands, and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, thereby the great God made known to the king what will be in the future, and the dream is certain and its explanation trustworthy.”

Was Jesus the Christ’s Kingdom established during the reign of the Roman Empire?

Jesus declared the arrival of His Kingdom BEFORE His death, burial, resurrection

Matthew 12:28 - But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (see also Mark 1:14-15 and Luke 17:20-21)

Jesus declared the establishment of His Kingdom AFTER His death, burial, resurrection

Matthew 28:18-20 - And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (See also Ephesians 1:19-21 and Philippians 2:9-11)

New Testament Example

Matthew 13:31-33 - He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. ³² It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³ He told them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

If you're like most people, right about now you should be thinking "This contradicts what I'm observing with my own five senses!" Moreover, doesn't this contradict Jesus' very clear teaching in Scripture?

Matthew 7:13-14 - "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. ¹⁴ For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few."

What should you do with what we've seen today? Get in the fight!

1 Timothy 6:12 - Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1. If you have not yet declared your allegiance to the risen and reigning King Jesus, you need to humble yourself (Philippians 2:9-10), confess that He is Lord (Romans 10:9-10), call on His name (Acts 2:21), and appeal to him for a clean conscience (1 Peter 3:21) through biblical baptism for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38, 22:16)
2. If you are a Christian who has been tolerating sin that is destroying you and those around you, it's time to put it to death (Colossians 3:5-8). (If you need someone in your corner, have the resolve to reach out and ask.)
3. If you are a Christian who has been letting anxiety and despair consume your mind, you need to repent and get to work on the calling God has charged you to fulfill (Philippians 4:6-7; 2 Timothy 2:3-4)
4. You need to learn how to pray by doing it (Luke 11:1-13) and learn how to read the Bible by doing it (TIP: YouTube "Bible Project" videos for the Bible book you're about to read).
5. You need to prioritize building the Kingdom outpost to which you belong (Ephesians 4:11-15) through making disciples (Matthew 28:18-20), serving others (Galatians 5:13), giving sacrificially (2 Corinthians 8:1-5), and gathering together for community (Acts 12:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)



WEEK 1: DECLARING VICTORY

September 19, 2021