

Financial Freedom in Christ

Week 5

The World's System VS the Kingdom of God

Romans 12:2

Stop imitating the ideals and opinions of the culture around you, but be inwardly transformed by the Holy Spirit through a total reformation of how you think. This will empower you to discern God's will as you live a beautiful life, satisfying and perfect in his eyes. TPT

As children of the King, we live in a different system than the world. We think differently because we are heirs of God Himself & we have the Mind of Christ! **(1 Corinthians 2:16)** As we receive the power of the Spirit of Grace to transform the way we think, we will no longer be conformed to this world and the way it thinks, but we'll truly begin to operate in the Kingdom of God and experience our Father's good, acceptable, and perfect will for our lives- reigning in life as a king through Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:17)

The World's way of thinking VS Kingdom thinking: Matthew 6:19-33

1. As Children of the Kingdom of God, our hope & trust is in Jesus alone!

Matthew 6:19-24 ¹⁹Do not gather and heap up and store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust and worm consume and destroy, and where thieves break through and steal. ²⁰But gather and heap up and store for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust nor worm consume and destroy, and where thieves do not break through and steal; ²¹Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be. NLT

²² The eye is the lamp of the body. So if your eye is sound, your entire body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is unsound, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the very light in you is darkened, how dense is that darkness!²⁴No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will stand by and be devoted to the one and despise and be against the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (deceitful riches, money, possessions, or whatever is trusted in). AMPC

What are treasures in heaven?

Romans 8:17 And since we are his true children, we qualify to share all his treasures, for indeed, we are heirs of God himself. And since we are joined to Christ, we also inherit all that he is and all that he has. TPT

Romans 10:11-12

11 The Scripture says, No man who believes in Him [who adheres to, relies on, and trusts in Him] will [ever] be put to shame or be disappointed. **12** For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek. The same Lord is Lord over all [of us] and He generously bestows His riches upon all who call upon Him [in faith]. AMPC

- Jesus is our treasure. We are qualified to share all the treasures found in Him. When your hope & trust is in Him, your whole body is full of light-peace, joy, love, confidence, security

- When your hope & trust is in the financial system of this world, your whole body is full of darkness-worry, fear, confusion, discouragement, disappointment, condemnation
- Placing your hope and trust in Jesus is where true life is found

The World's way of thinking: Their hope and trust is in how much money they have, the economy, their 401 K, their business, a job, a future inheritance, their spouse. If they can't figure out how they will be taken care of they worry and fret. Their emotions are based on their present financial situation whether it is good or bad.

Kingdom thinking (The mind of Christ): My hope & trust is in Jesus. I take comfort and am encouraged by my Father's promise to take care of me. He qualified me for the promise of abundant provision & He will supply all my needs.

2. As children of the Kingdom of God we find our value in who we are, not what we do

Matthew 6:25-26 Therefore I tell you, stop being perpetually uneasy (anxious and worried) about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink; or about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life greater [in quality] than food, and the body [far above and more excellent] than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father keeps feeding them. Are you not worth much more than they? Aren't you far more valuable to Him than they are? AMPC

The World's way of thinking: their value is found in their success, their social status, their accomplishments, their work ethic, their productivity, their gift or talent. They compare themselves with others either feeling superior or inferior because they define themselves based on the world's system. Fear of lack is the result of finding your value outside of your identity in Jesus.

Kingdom thinking (The mind of Christ): I am valuable because of who I am, not what I do. I am dearly loved by my Father. I was purchased with the precious blood of Jesus (I Peter 1:18,19). Father, you will abundantly provide for me just because you love me. I am not defined by the world, but by my new identity in Jesus! My brother's and sister's in Christ are equally loved, valued, favored, abundantly blessed, qualified, wise, successful, and righteous because we are all one in Jesus! No more comparing or jealousy in the kingdom of God, just righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

John 17:16

They are no more defined by the world than I am defined by the world. MSG

^{3.} As children of the Kingdom of God, we live free from fear; our Peace is found in Jesus

Matthew 6:27-32:And who of you by worrying and being anxious can add one unit of measure (cubit) to his stature or to the span of his life?²⁸And why should you be anxious about clothes? Consider the lilies of the field and learn thoroughly how they grow; they neither toil nor spin. ²⁹Yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his magnificence (excellence, dignity, and grace) was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and green and tomorrow is tossed into the furnace, will He not much more surely clothe you, O you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry and be anxious, saying, What are we going to have to eat? or, What are we going to have to drink? or, What are we going to have to wear? ³²For the Gentiles (heathen) wish for and crave and diligently seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows well that you need them all.

World's way of thinking: I'll be happy and find peace if I am successful, rich, famous, have more stuff. However, worldly success will never bring true peace and true abundant life. If you don't know who you are in Jesus, you have nothing! If you've gained wealth by your human effort and work, then you live your whole life in fear of losing it.

Luke 9:25 For what does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and ruins or forfeits (loses) himself? AMPC

Luke 12:15: And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses. NKJV

The Futility of trying to find success and happiness outside of Jesus Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

¹ I said to myself, "Come on, let's try pleasure. Let's look for the 'good things' in life." But I found that this, too, was meaningless. ² So I said, "Laughter is silly. What good does it do to seek pleasure?" ³ After much thought, I decided to cheer myself with wine. And while still seeking wisdom, I clutched at foolishness. In this way, I tried to experience the only happiness most people find during their brief life in this world. ⁴ I also tried to find meaning by building huge homes for myself and by planting beautiful vineyards. ⁵ I made gardens and parks, filling them with all kinds of fruit trees. ⁶ I built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my many flourishing groves. ⁷ I bought slaves, both men and women, and others were born into my household. I also owned large herds and flocks, more than any of the kings who had lived in Jerusalem before me. ⁸ I collected great sums of silver and gold, the treasure of many kings and provinces. I hired wonderful singers, both men and women, and had many beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire! ⁹ So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me. ¹⁰ Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors. ¹¹ But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.

True Peace and Happiness is only found in Jesus: Jehovah Shalom: The Lord my Peace

John 14:27

Peace I leave with you; My [own] peace I now give and bequeath to you. AMP "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. NLT

Philippians 4:6-7

6 Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done. **7** Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. NLT

What is Peace? Strong's: H7965 shâlôm From H7999; *safe, well, happy, friendly*; good health, prosperity, peace, favor, rest, to be whole; G1515: to set as one again

Kingdom thinking (The Mind of Christ): I have everything I need in Jesus! I am approved, accepted, favored, righteous, successful, wise, abundantly blessed, and complete in Jesus. I lack nothing! Every need of my heart is met in Him! Jesus is my Peace! Father, Your peace

guards my heart and mind as I live in Jesus! My peace is not determined by my present circumstances, but by my identity in Jesus!

4. As children in the kingdom of God, we don't seek after money, we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and His blessings of abundance overtake us.

Matthew 6:31-33: Therefore do not worry and be anxious, saying, What are we going to have to eat? or, What are we going to have to drink? or, What are we going to have to wear? ³²For the Gentiles (heathen) wish for and crave and diligently seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows well that you need them all.AMP ³³But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. NIV

What is the kingdom of God?

Romans 14:17: (AMP)¹⁷[After all] the kingdom of God is not a matter of [getting the] food and drink [one likes], but instead it is righteousness (that state which makes a person acceptable to God) and [heart] peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Luke 17:20-21(AMP)²⁰Asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He replied to them by saying, The kingdom of God does not come with signs to be observed or with visible display, ²¹Nor will people say, Look! Here [it is]! or, See, [it is] there! For behold, the kingdom of God is within you [in your hearts] and among you [surrounding you].

World's way of thinking: They seek to establish their own righteousness by depending on their own human effort, good work, education, human wisdom-trying to figure everything out on their own and following the world's system of success-If it's to be, it's up to me!

Kingdom way of thinking (the Mind of Christ): I receive grace (Jesus' ability in me) and His gift of righteousness. I rejoice in who I am in Jesus and who He is in me. If it's to be, it's Jesus in me!

I do not conform to the world's way of thinking, but I am transformed as I behold Jesus and my new identity found in Him! I am led by His Spirit and abundantly prosperous because of Jesus! As He is so am I in this world! I reign in life by agreeing with my Heavenly Father's good opinion of me in Jesus!

Proverbs 3:5-6: Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. 6 Listen for GOD's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track. MSG

As you seek first His Kingdom & receive His free gift of righteousness, all the things the world seeks after will be given to you & you will reign in life through Jesus!

Romans 5:17: "much more surely will those who receive [God's] overflowing grace (unmerited favor) and the free gift of righteousness reign as kings in life through the one Man Jesus Christ." AMPC