

Kingdom Minded

Last week I read an article that was heartbreaking. It said, in response to the events in Washington last week, "Christians don't read their Bibles anymore, they read Facebook." Unfortunately, I am afraid he is right. The only way, we can live out our faith in a culture that does not know God and is often anti-Christian is we have to be kingdom minded. Just consider how much time we spend on social media each day compared to how much time we spend reading the Bible. The average Christian consumes 1-2 hours a week from their local church and 13 hours a week through media where there is no accountability and is polarizing.

Proverbs 23:7a, "For as he thinks within himself, so he is." NASB

What does that look like?

Week 1- Great expectation, priceless inheritance, held by the power of God, and the promise of eternal glory! For those who follow Jesus. Not for everyone. Those who take the narrow path.

1 Peter 1:12, What God has done for us is so amazing, that all of heaven is amazed, spell bound, captivated by the gospel, the love, mercy, grace, justice, holiness, glory, and power of God revealed in Christ!

1 Peter 1:13-14a,

- So, Therefore, because this is true
- "Live as God's obedient children"

How do we do that? The only way we can live as children of God, is to think like children of God. The only way we can think like children of God is allow the Bible to shape our thinking.

Romans 12:2, "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

1. God's will is more important than my desires. 1 Peter 1:13-16

We all have to decide is God good and will I trust Him. If God is good and God is the source of all truth, then I need to trust Him and do what he says even when I do not understand. I should assume, he is right, and because my knowledge and understanding is limited, I am going to trust Him. Some say, I know what the Bible says but... Every time we say or think that way, we are saying, I am smarter, wiser, more loving, and more just than God. We are basically declaring, I am God!

Like all children, they think they know what they do not know. All of you over 40. Remember when you thought your parents were stupid and you knew better. Now we all know we were stupid and our parents were right.

Humanism: Believes man is good and the measure of all things. This is the opposite of what the Bible teaches. The Bible teaches man is evil and a good God came to redeem fallen man.

- **Genesis 6:5**, "The LORD observed the extent of human wickedness on the earth, and he saw that everything they thought or imagined was consistently and totally evil."
- **Isaiah 64:6**, "All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags..." NIV

- **Romans 3:9-18**, “What then? Are we any better? Not at all. For we have already made the charge that Jews and Greeks alike are all under sin. As it is written: “There is no one righteous, not even one. There is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. The venom of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery lie in their wake, and the way of peace they have not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes.”
- **Isaiah 53:6**, All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.
- **2 Corinthians 5:21**, God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

You cannot trust culture or what you think you feel to determine what is right or wrong or how you should behave. We must trust God and what He has revealed in the Bible.

2. Eternal rewards are better than temporary pleasure. 1 Peter 1:17

Culture pushes us to live for the moment without much or any thought of the future consequences. If it feels good, do it. But is this good advice? Does this philosophy produce a happy life? Often what feels good in the moment will ruin your life. Often what the crowd is doing, will ruin your life.

I was talking to a guy last week who was angry because his neighbor had people over and they were parked on the street. This makes it difficult for him to get in and out of his driveway which I understand. I would be frustrated to. But then he said, I am going to go buy a clunker and just ram those cars off the road into his ditch.” That may feel good in the moment but about an hour later you will be in jail, the next day you will be unemployed, and your wife and children will soon have no place to live. We cannot live for the moment. We need to live for eternity. Let’s not ask what feels good. Let’s ask what does God say is good.

- As much as it is up to you live a peace with all men
- Love your enemy
- The fruit of the Spirit is...

This is why Peter started his letter by saying, “You have a priceless inheritance, keep in heaven for you.” We have to understand what the Bible says about how the world will end. Things will get worse, the church will get better, then the end will come. Between now and then, even if we suffer, let’s live for an eternal reward!

Fasting:

- Helps us learn to deny our flesh
- Helps us hear the voice of God
- Helps us experience abundant life! God is good! Jesus came to give us abundant life. If you believe that follow Him!
- This is the life that produces eternal rewards!

Peter says one day we will stand before God, and give an account for our life. We cannot pull one over on God. God sees all we do and knows why we do it. He will judge our behavior and our hearts. Peter says live with an eternal perspective. Let’s live, not for the moment, but for eternity. How we live in this life determines how we will spend eternity.

One characteristic of mature Christians is this, they live with an eternal perspective.

3. Gratitude must replace entitlement. 1 Peter 1:18-20

When we understand the gospel, it produces gratitude. Peter says you were ransomed by the blood of Jesus. Jesus died for you.

What is the gospel?

- God is good and generous. God created a perfect, sinless world
- Adam and Eve rebelled against God. They wanted to replace God. They corrupted God's good creation
- Mankind deserves judgement and Hell.
- God's love is greater than our sin.
- Motivated by love, God sent Jesus, his son, into the world. Jesus lived a perfect life and died to pay for our sin.
- God offers all mankind forgiveness, adoption, eternal life, and paradise by trusting in the finished work of Jesus.
- This is true no matter what happens in my short life on earth.

When we truly understand who we are without Christ and all that God has done in Christ for us our hearts should be full of humility, gratitude and surrender. When we do not understand the gospel, we are naturally prideful, selfish, and demanding. When I do not understand the gospel, I am helping to create hell on earth and sometimes in the name of Christianity.

4. Love will outlive hate! 1 Peter 1:21-25

Because we trust God, because we have placed our faith and hope in God who raised Christ from the dead. Because we are cleansed, born again, we should love each other deeply and sincerely. After all:

- **Verse 22** says we are brothers and sisters. One thing that drives me crazy is when my kids mistreat each other. One thing that drives God crazy is when his kids mistreat each other.
 - **Verse 23** says we will live forever, we are stuck with each other. The way a lot of people act on earth, it is obvious, they would not like heaven if they got there. Some people should really consider, do I want to go to heaven?
 - o There will be people there who do not look or vote like you
 - o There will be people there that you are convinced are not getting in and there will be people missing you assumed would make it
 - o God is in charge. God is not going to ask your opinion or get your permission in heaven. We have to decide, does God exist to serve me or do I exist to serve God. Those in heaven will live to serve Jesus.
 - **Chapter 2:1**, says, sin is a violation of love. Why is sin bad? Sin, destroys relationships!
- 1 Corinthians 13:13**, These three remain faith, hope, and love but the greatest of these is love. Love will last forever!

How? **1 Peter 2:2-3**, 21 days! Are we hungry for God's word? Hungry to hear God speak? We have to fall in love with the Bible!

- **Psalm 119:105**
- **2 Timothy 3:16**
- **Matthew 4:4**
- **Jeremiah 15:16**
- **James 1:19-20**