

FROM OLD TO NEW

Has anyone noticed lately it seems like the church and God's people have been facing a non-stop, relentless attack from the enemy?

When we entered the Kingdom of God, it was by violent determination – which means we must also be aggressive in serving Christ!

Luke 16:14-16 NKJV ¹⁴ Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, also heard all these things, and they ^[f]derided Him. ¹⁵ And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves before men, but God knows your hearts. For what is highly esteemed among men is an abomination in the sight of God.

¹⁶ "The law and the prophets *were* until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it.

v. 16 marks a major turning point in salvation history. It shows the shift from TO Law and the prophets to the new era of God's Kingdom

The Mosaic Law and prophets was the blueprint that foreshadowed God's redemptive plan

V. 16 leaped out at me yesterday morning and I didn't know why

John the Baptist was the final representative of the old prophetic time and bridge to the New Covenant of the Messiah

The arrival of Jesus and John's ministry marks an era where now anticipation turns into realization!

The King as arrived and the gospel of the Kingdom is actively being proclaimed!

Open your ears this morning! Jesus gave us 'new access' now we no longer look at just types and shadows through the law, we are invited into the active, dynamic reality of God's reign!

v. 16 Read

The Kingdom advances as a result of two things: preaching and pressing in!

1. PREACH THE WORD

We are to passionately preach and proclaim His Kingdom with spiritual passion. Why?

Because every generation has to respond to this truth with sensitive hearts so that we might present it to the next generation

Proclaiming the truth will require: a passionate pursuit of prayer, confrontation with the demonic, expect the miraculous, and finally a burning heart for evangelism. That's how the Kingdom of God penetrates the world!

2 Tim 4:1-5 NKJV I charge *you* ^[a]therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead ^[b]at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

We are commanded to preach the Word when circumstances are favorable and also when they are unfavorable, it's the good news that can change any life forever!

2. PRESSING IN

We have an urgent message which requires an urgent entry. Forcing our way into or pressing into it, which means with great zeal, urgency and eagerness to receive the gospel

The Pharisees trusted their wealth and self-righteousness rather than embracing the spiritual awakening happening around them

It's no different today and the reason why is you can't merely understand with your mind, it's spiritual and must be comprehended and entered into by spiritual means and in godly living

Pressing in means displaying fierce, violent, spiritual zeal while God forcefully breaks barriers to draw people in!

Matt 11:12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force.

The resistance felt today is because as the Kingdom advances in victory, it does it through violent spiritual conflict and warfare

God makes penetration into the kingdom of darkness by a kind of violent entry that opposes the status quo, abandoning self-righteousness, worldly security, and pride and responding to Him with radical wholehearted commitment

Right now, church, we must understand that eh Kingdom is worth more than any other pursuit.

Listen up! We must be ready to forsake any personal goal that hinders us from entering into all God has for us in this hour

The upheaval caused by the Kingdom of God is not political or armed advancement. It is the very result of God's order shaking relationships, households, and cities and nations by the entrance of the Holy Spirit's power working in people's lives right now!

Now is our time church! Preach and Press in!

2 Tim 4:1-5 I charge you ^[a]therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead ^[b]at His appearing and His kingdom: ² Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.