

Kingdom or Church, Part 8

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When I began the Matthew 24 series last year, I was determined to get a foundation set before we started getting into the implications of what Fulfilled Bible Prophecy means. For the most part, we did just that. But. What I have actually failed to understand is that for most people - a lifetime of understandings that have been ingrained into people - may actually take a lifetime to shed those understandings - then another lifetime to replace them with what is actually the truth.

Here's an example. In part of my Matthew 24 series - I spent one hour trying to teach what the phrase "the end of the world" means - Biblically. I spent one hour. Now, in that hour, I crammed many passages of Scripture in there that prove that the phrase "the end of the world" means the End of the Old Covenant age.

The reality is, I could have and possibly should have, spent several months of messages only dealing with the phrase "the end of the world" as it is found in Scripture. When a man has been taught all his life, that "the end of the world" means the end of the grass, the trees, the birds, in other words, the physical earth - when he has had that taught to him all his life - and he has believed it to be so - 99 times out of a hundred - that is not going to be overturned in his mind - then replaced with the truth - in a one hour message.

For many years, I have heard quote unquote "preachers" say, "Outside of Jesus, outside of Yeshua, there was no wiser man than Solomon."

Well, Solomon wrote the following in Ecclesiastes 1:

- [1] The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem.
- [2] Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.
- [3] What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?
- [4] One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever.

Now this was written long long before the words of Christ found in Matthew 24 in response to the disciples question: "What shall be the sign of thy coming and of the end of the world?"

Had the disciples read the book of Ecclesiastes? Had Jesus, Yeshua read the book of

Ecclesiastes? My answer to both is yes, and to the latter, my answer is stronger. Not only did Jesus/Yeshua read Ecclesiastes, but He told Solomon what to write! He knew what would be in the book of Ecclesiastes before Solomon did.

The earth abideth forever.

The Hebrew word for earth here is eh-rets meaning the earth, the land, field, ground, wilderness, world. This is the physical world - the land - that Yahweh and His Son created in Genesis 1. Ecclesiastes 1:4 and Genesis 1:1 are the same word.

The earth abideth forever.

If a man believes that "the end of the world" found in Matthew 24:3 is the physical earth, the physical world - then we have a major problem with the Word of God. "Preachers" so-called love to say there are no contradictions in the Bible. Well, friends, if a man believes that the "end of the world" is physical - then the Bible has a huge contradiction because Solomon wrote that the earth abideth for ever. Then several hundred years later, Jesus comes along and says that Solomon didn't know what he was talking about. And if Solomon didn't know what he was talking about, then we have a very mixed up God, because Solomon only wrote what God told him to write.

But Charlie, Peter says that the elements would burn with a fervent heat and

...the day of Yahweh will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

[12] Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

And all those words in there are to be taken literally and physically - even though Solomon - in speaking concerning the physical aspects of God's creation - for the purpose of teaching the physical aspects of God's creation - said -

The earth abideth forever.

The modern "churchman" has spent the biggest part of his "ministry" so-called - teaching that the Old Testament is done away with, has no real value for today - and except for a few cute stories about a boy killing a giant, or a grown man getting swallowed by a whale - very little is known today from the Old Testament Scriptures among people that have been brought up in what is called "church."

If a man has never read that Solomon said, "The earth abideth forever" - he will have all kinds of trouble understanding phrases such as "the end of the world" "the elements melting with a fervent heat" "the passing of the heavens and the earth" and most importantly of all - the "establishing of the New Heavens and the New earth."

So Solomon said "The earth abideth forever" in Ecclesiastes 1:4. In verse 5, he said,

[5] The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose.

I'm throwing this is today for fun. The sun ariseth - that's movement. The sun goeth down - that's movement. The sun hasteth to his place where he arose - that's also movement. The Word of God says the sun moves. Verse 6.

[6] The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.

[7] All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.

Look with me please to Genesis 9 and let's read beginning in verse 8. This is what God said to Noah and his sons - after the flood.

And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,

[9] And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;

[10] And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth.

[11] And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

Does the text say that that God destroyed the earth? Yes it does. And, this earth is also the same word earth from Ecclesiastes 1:4 and from Genesis 1. Yet - the earth continued to exist - even after it was destroyed. Because "One generation cometh, another passeth away, but the earth abideth forever."

So when we see passages such as what we see in II Peter 3 - II Peter 3 is not teaching what the Baptists, the Jehovah's Witnesses, the Mormons, the Assemblies of God - are saying it is saying.

The full implications of the elements melting like a fervent heat and the the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up is referring to the Old Covenant

world. It is symbolic language for the physical aspects of the Old Covenant and symbolic language for the spiritual elements of the Old Covenant.

The "earth also and the works that are therein..." Was there a physical fire that destroyed the earth at the conclusion of the Old Covenant World? You better believe there was.

Josephus wrote that towards the end of the destruction of Jerusalem at AD70 the whole city had been set on fire. And there was so much blood in the streets, that a great part of the fire was actually put out by the blood of those who were slain by the Roman armies. But after that fire occurred - and the earth was destroyed - did the earth still remain? Absolutely. Because "One generation cometh, another passeth away, but the earth abideth forever."

I'll assure you that that generation came - that generation passed away with fire and fervent heat - but the earth continued to abide.

Why is it so important for the earth to abide forever? And why is it so important that we teach men and women boys and girls, the truth regarding what the phrase "the end of the world" really means?

Look with me please to Isaiah 9 and we'll begin in verse 6. Unless you are a modern day professing Jew - and if a man is a modern day "churchian futurist" - he cannot see this passage of Scripture fulfilled with the Messiah who came to this world in the first century. Verse 6:

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

[7] Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of Yahweh of hosts will perform this.

I want you to notice very carefully verse 7. It does not say His Government and peace there shall be no end. It says of the increase of His Government and Peace there shall be no end. I ask you today. How does His Government increase? The Kingdom of God increases when men and women, boys and girls, fall on their faces in repentance that they - just like the people living in the first century - refused to embrace Jesus / Yeshua as the Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords - and when they embrace Him as King of kings and Lord of lords and become fully immersed into the King and His Kingdom - the Kingdom of God is enlarged. The Kingdom of God increases.

When those people who embrace the King and the Kingdom in their lives by being fully immersed into His way, into His Kingdom, into His Laws, Commandments, Statutes and most importantly His Judgements - then it is peace that follows. Psalm 119:165

Great peace have they which love thy law:

Isaiah 54:1

Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith Yahweh.

[2] Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes;

[3] For thou shalt break forth on the right hand and on the left; and thy seed shall inherit the Gentiles, and make the desolate cities to be inhabited.

[4] Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more.

[5] For thy Maker is thine husband; Yahweh of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

[6] For Yahweh hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God.

[7] For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee.

[8] In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith Yahweh thy Redeemer.

[9] For this is as the waters of Noah unto me: for as I have sworn that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth; so have I sworn that I would not be wroth with thee, nor rebuke thee.

[10] For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith Yahweh that hath mercy on thee.

[11] O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colours, and lay thy foundations with sapphires.

[12] And I will make thy windows of agates, and thy gates of carbuncles, and all thy borders of pleasant stones.

[13] And all thy children shall be taught of Yahweh; and great shall be the peace of thy children.

[14] In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

[15] Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.

[16] Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy.

[17] No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of Yahweh, and their righteousness is of me, saith Yahweh.

Wow. What a promise to those who are of the heritage of the servants of Yahweh. The Kingdom of God - when it increases in a generation of people - will bring peace. It will bring prosperity. It will bring unparalleled security. Why in the world we are not craving this today. Why we are not moving heaven and earth to position ourselves with Yahweh so that He can bless us with this is just beyond me.

By now - surely those of you who have been listening to me preach - understand that it is the lie of futurism that has blinded us and have not only prevented us from walking in the Kingdom - it has kept us from even understanding it. We are so far from where we should be as the people of God - that the sad truth is - most have just given up. Most have failed to see that it was actually a very short amount of time passed before it was said of those several apostles, "These that have turned the world upside, have come hither also, whom Jason hath received, and these all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying there is another King, One Jesus."

I've said it before and I'll say it again - and again - and again - Jesus / Yeshua is not coming back to this earth to fight against His enemies and set up His Kingdom. He did that once already. He is not going to do it again. It is our responsibility - as those who claim to be the followers of Christ - to implement His Kingship and His Kingdom in our lives. Beginning like a mustard seed. Very small, then spreading into an enormous tree. But as long as we continue with the lie of futurism and with the deception of playing "church" - things will continue to get worse and worse and worse. There's hope. There's great hope. When our obedience is fulfilled, He will be moved into working on our behalf.

When my message concluded last week on Missouri Liberty Radio, I tuned in to listen to a few minutes of Chuck Baldwin's message. I did so because in the previous week, he said he was going to be talking about the destruction of Jerusalem at AD70. Instead, I heard him preaching on what he called the "New Covenant." I stayed around and listened for a bit and heard him say that he simply could not understand how preachers would be preaching the Laws of God are for today, when clearly the Bible says that Jesus nailed the Laws to the cross.

In some ways, Chuck Baldwin is not the typical "churchman" of our day. It is my understanding that his quote unquote "church" is not a 501(c)(3) government corporation and of course, I am glad for that. But sadly, the message that the Laws of God have been nailed to the cross is the exact same message that all the 501(c)(3) government quote unquote "churches" are teaching.

I reached out to Chuck following his message with an email. I wasn't optimistic about a reply, but nonetheless, I wanted to give him an opportunity to answer a few questions. This is what I wrote:

Dear Chuck,

I preach a weekly message that is broadcast on Missouri Liberty Radio (10:00amCT and again at 9:00pmCT). My message precedes your message that airs on the same radio station at 11:00amCT.

I listened in for a few minutes to your message this past weekend and became very confused at what you were saying. You mentioned that you could not understand why there are some preachers who advocate for the Laws of God - when the Laws of God have been done away with.

Are you saying that there are preachers today that are advocating that men sacrifice animals in order to keep the Laws of God? I don't think that is what you were implying. I think you were trying to say that all of God's Laws have been done away with "at the cross."

The perplexing thing for me is that I preach - in the hour ahead of you - that only a return to the Laws (Judgements) of God in America is the only thing that will save America from complete destruction. Nations of people are always going to have laws. If God's Laws are not to be used - then what remains? Are you saying that it is okay for men to take upon themselves the "power" to make law? Are you saying that it is okay for men to take upon themselves the "power" to define good and evil; then legislate those definitions on people?

In the first two hours of Sunday morning's radio lineup on Missouri Liberty Radio, the central theme of the preaching is of the King and His Kingdom and a return to His teachings that men should obey the Commandments of His Father - as He Himself obeyed them. In addition to my questions above, am I correct that you are teaching men to obey the laws of men and discard the Laws of God? I'm hope that I'm wrong, but based on what I heard this past Sunday, it sure seemed that way to me.

Sincerely Because Jesus Christ is King now,

Charlie Steward

Could it be, because Chuck Baldwin does not understand certain passages in what is called The Old Testament - that it is causing him to have blinders and therefore he is unable to understand the things in the New World - the New Covenant World?

I want to ask you the same things this morning.

If the Laws of God are not for today. If the Laws of God have been "nailed to the cross." Knowing that there must be law for any society to function - what law is left? If God's Law is not for today, then what law is?

Those of us who are compelling men to return to the Laws of God are not compelling men to offer animal sacrifices. Those Laws of God - the ceremonial Laws, the sacrificial Laws, those Laws melted with a fervent heat. Those elements - passed away. The elements that Peter was referring to is from the Greek word stoy-keh-o fundamental, initial, principles, rudiments - it was the fundamental principles of the Laws concerning sacrifices that passed away with a fervent heat. It was the ceremonial, physical trappings of the things inside the temple that passed away. But it certainly was not the Laws of God that David was talking about when he said, "Great peace have they which love thy Law."

Behold, Yahweh's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

[2] But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Friends, what is sin? I John 3:4

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

What is iniquity? Iniquity is when men take it to themselves to define what is good and evil and they take something that God said is evil - something unlawful - and by their quote unquote "laws" make that act legal. Or they take something that God has said is Lawful for a man, and by their quote unquote "laws" they make it illegal.

So Jesus took the Laws of God and nailed them to the cross, thereby doing away with something called sin, thereby saying that men are free to do whatever they want to - because Jesus did away with the Laws of God thereby giving man the authority to determine what is good and what is evil - and since all a man's ways are right in his own eyes - he can now establish a free for all - do whatever you want society - because Jesus made it so.

When a man takes it upon himself to define good and evil - he has trespassed against the highest order of establishment that God ever created. So Jesus did away with the prohibition against man defining good and evil - and that's what He did at the cross.

It is no wonder we are in the shape we are in today. That has to be the most devilish twisting of the Order and Establishment of God that has ever been. It's what happened in the garden of Eden. "Hath God said..." Look at Genesis chapter 3 beginning in verse 1:

[1] Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which Yahweh God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

[2] And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

[3] But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Clearly we see from this text, that Yahweh God had told Adam and Eve - the text says "We" - they both knew what Yahweh God had set forth as Law. This you may do, this you shall not do. Sin was the transgression of the Law in the first year of creation - and sin is the transgression of the Law in 2019. "And sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death."

[4] And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

[5] For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

That lie was from the serpent - whatever it was. Eve already knew what was good and what was evil. God had already told her. The principle that Yahweh has for us to be learned here is that we are NOT to be as gods - we are not to put ourselves in the place of Almighty God in attempting to define what is good and what is evil. That responsibility belongs to Yahweh and to Him alone. When men take to themselves the "power" and I'll say power here because it is not authority - authority comes from God - "power" can be found in someone - anyone - who has enough guns or spending power or both - but when men take to themselves the "power" to define good and evil - they are putting themselves out there as gods.

When men say that the Laws of God have been done away with, they are saying we now have the "power" to define good and evil - and Jesus made it that way with His death on the cross. This has to be the height of arrogance, ignorance and rebellion.

Agreed. No argument from me whatsoever - the Laws of God relating to sacrifices, to ceremony, were nailed to the cross.

But the Laws defining criminal behavior and the corresponding judgements have not then or ever will be done away with. The economic Laws, the migration Laws, the inheritance laws, the very few preemptive Laws - and I mean count them on one hand

Laws, the criminal Laws of God will never be done away with because they are flawlessly perfect and relevant from generation to generation and when a group of people commit themselves to the implementation of those Laws - under Christ the King - under Yahweh the King - when the righteous are in authority the people rejoice - and when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

The people in America today - the ones who truly have their eyes opened - are mourning. And they mourning because the wicked bear rule. And the wicked bear rule because the "churchmen" have convinced the great majority of people in America that this is the plan and will of God.

When the Laws of God - accompanied by the Judgements of God - are implemented in and among a group of people - the ecclesia that Christ was building awakens to life. It is alive in that generation of people who accept it. This what Christ was building in the first century and it is what He has intended for all generations since that time. It is His Government, with His Laws, Judgements, Statutes determining what is right - what is good - what is evil - and then men and women boys and girls submitting themselves in the sight of God to His Government.

But that is not what has been taught - at least in my lifetime - and I think I'm safe in saying that for at least 350 years - that is not what has been taught.

We have an evolutionized concocted theory of religion that has been twisted and tweaked and turned into something that doesn't match the Word of God - and it has been passed down through something called "church" and it has brought us such concepts as Jesus took away the Laws of God so that we can make our own laws - which are 9 times out of 10 - opposite of what God's Laws were - and now instead of sin being the transgression of God's Law - sin is the transgression of man's law - which has given us - abortion, sodomite marriage, labor taxes, property taxes, etc., etc., etc.

Instead of great peace have they which love God's Law - we have constant war, blood in the streets, ridiculously high drug abuse statistics... listen to this. According to the American Addiction Centers:

According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), [19.7 million American adults \(aged 12 and older\) battled a substance use disorder in 2017.](#)¹

Almost 74% of adults suffering from a substance use disorder in 2017 struggled with an alcohol use disorder.¹

About 38% of adults in 2017 battled an illicit drug use disorder.¹

Are you kidding? You mean almost 4 out of every 10 adults I see in America today - or in 2017 - were battling an illicit drug use disorder. Wow. Our laws, and our statutes and our treaties are working great for increasing His Government and His peace.

That same year, 1 out of every 8 adults struggled with both [alcohol and drug use disorders simultaneously](#).¹

In 2017, 8.5 million American adults suffered from both a mental health disorder and a substance use disorder, or co-occurring disorders.¹

Drug abuse and addiction cost American society more than \$740 billion annually in lost workplace productivity, healthcare expenses, and crime-related costs.²

CAUSES OF ADDICTION

Genetics, including the impact of one's environment on gene expression, account for about 40% to 60% of a person's risk of addiction.³

Environmental factors that may increase a person's risk of addiction include a chaotic home environment and abuse, parent's drug use and attitude toward drugs, peer influences, community attitudes toward drugs, and poor academic achievement.³

Teenagers and people with mental health disorders are more at risk for drug use and addiction than other populations.³

STATISTICS ON SPECIFIC POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS AND ADDICTION

Adolescents (aged 12-17):

In 2017, approximately 4% of the [American adolescent population](#) age 12 to 17 suffered from a substance use disorder; this equals 992,000 teens or 1 in 25 people in this age group.¹

About 443,000 adolescents age 12 to 17 had an alcohol use disorder in 2017, or 1.8% of adolescents.¹

An estimated 741,000 adolescents suffered from an illicit drug use disorder in 2017, or about 3% of this population.¹

Young adults aged 18-25:

About 5.1 million young adults age 18 to 25 battled a substance use disorder in 2017, which equates to 14.8% of this population and about 1 in 7 people.¹

About 3.4 million young adults age 18 to 25 had an alcohol use disorder in 2017, or about 10% of young adults.¹

About 2.5 million young adults had an illicit drug use disorder in 2017, or about 7.3% of this population.¹

[Heroin use among young adults](#) between 18 and 25 years old doubled in the past decade.⁴

Heroin? Really? Heroin?

Over age 26:

Approximately 13.6 million adults age 26 or older struggled with a substance use disorder in 2017, or 6.4% of this age group.¹

About 10.6 million adults age 26 and older had an alcohol use disorder in 2017, or about 5% of this age group.¹

About 4.3 million adults age 26 or older had an illicit drug use disorder in 2017, or 2% of this age group.¹

Elderly individuals:

More than 1 million adults age 65 or older [had a substance use disorder](#) in 2017.⁷

That same year, about 978,000 of people in this age group had an alcohol use disorder and about 93,000 had an illicit drug use disorder.⁷

Two-thirds of the population over the age of 65 who struggle with alcohol use disorders developed the disorder before age 65.⁶

Between 21% and 66% of elderly individuals battling a substance use disorder also suffer from a co-occurring mental health disorder.⁶

Men vs. women:

In 2017, about 9.4% of men and 5.2% of women age 12 and older had a substance use disorder.⁷

Men may be more likely to abuse illicit drugs than women, but women may be just as prone to addiction as men when they do abuse them.⁸

Ethnicity/race:

American Indians and Alaska Natives age 12 and older had the highest rate of substance abuse and dependence in 2017, at 12.8%.⁷

Whites had a 7.7% rate of substance abuse in 2017.

About 6.8% percent of African Americans struggled with substance use disorders, while the percentage of Hispanics or Latinos who suffered from substance use disorders was 6.6%.⁷

Approximately 4.6% percent of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders suffered from substance use disorders.⁷

Asian Americans had the lowest rate of substance use disorders at 3.8%.⁷

Criminal justice/employment status:

Almost twice as many people who are unemployed struggle with addiction than those who are full-time workers, [CNN Money](#) Around 17% of the unemployed and 9% of the employed population struggle with a substance use disorder.⁹

Of the 2.3 million people in American prisons and jails, more than 65% meet the criteria for addiction.¹⁰

Around 75% of individuals in a state prison or local jail who suffer from a mental illness also struggle with substance abuse, and the opposite is also true.¹¹

STATISTICS ON ADDICTION TO SPECIFIC SUBSTANCES

Cocaine:

About 966,000 American adults (over age 12) struggled with a cocaine use disorder in 2017.¹

That same year, 637,000 people age 12 and older [received treatment](#) for a cocaine use disorder either in their last or current stay in rehabilitation.⁷

Heroin:

About 652,000 people age 12 and older had a heroin use disorder in 2017.¹

Almost a quarter of people who [abuse heroin will become addicted to it](#).¹²

Heroin use has risen in most demographic groups in the United States over the past 2 decades, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) reports.⁴

Individuals addicted to alcohol are 2 times more likely to also be addicted to heroin, while those addicted to marijuana are 3 times more likely, individuals addicted to cocaine are 15 times more likely, and people addicted to prescription drugs are 40 times more likely.⁴

The highest at-risk population for heroin addiction is non-Hispanic white males between the ages of 18 and 25 who live in large cities.⁴

Prescription drugs:

The most common types of prescription drugs abused in 2017 were pain relievers, tranquilizers, stimulants, and sedatives.⁷

In 2017, about 1.7 million people age 12 and older had a pain reliever use disorder, or about 0.6% of this population.¹

Women may more rapidly develop a prescription painkiller dependence than men. They are also more likely to have chronic pain, be prescribed pain relievers, and receive higher doses.¹²

According to a study published in the journal [Substance Abuse Treatment, Prevention, and Policy](#), individuals who were admitted to opioid treatment programs who abused

*only prescription opioids, or those who abused both heroin and prescription opioids, were about 5 years younger than individuals admitted solely for heroin abuse or dependency.*¹³

Marijuana:

*Approximately 4.1 million American adults over the age of 12 battled a marijuana use disorder in 2017.*¹

*The majority of people struggling with marijuana addiction in 2017 were between the ages of 12 and 25.*¹

*Almost 6% of full-time college students in the United States were daily marijuana smokers in 2014. This is more than triple the number of daily smokers in this population 20 years prior.*¹⁴

Alcohol:

*In 2017, an estimated 14.5 million American adults age 12 and older battled an alcohol use disorder, or 5.3% of this population.*¹

*Over half of all American adults have a family history of [problem drinking](#) or alcohol addiction.*¹⁵

*More than 10% of U.S. children live with a parent with alcohol problems.*¹⁶

*An estimated 88,000 people die from alcohol-related causes annually.*¹⁶

*Alcohol is the third-leading cause of preventable death in the United States.*¹⁶

*47% of the 78,529 liver diseases among people age 12 and older in 2015 involved alcohol.*¹⁶

*40% of all hospital beds in the United States are used to treat conditions related to alcohol consumption.*¹⁵

What has been passed off in America as government, what has been passed off in

America as religion - is not working. We have religion that is not founded in Christ or His Word - and we have government that was invented by men who believe - and still do - that they have the power to define good and evil - and that God Himself yielded His very Godship TO THEM - WOW!

"I am God, the Creator of the Universe, but I have realized that my Laws were not good enough, they were flawed, they were insufficient, so I am going to allow them to be nailed to the cross so that men can make their own laws - because they will do a better job than I ever did."

If that is not what men who say that God's Laws have been done away with ultimately have to conclude - then someone please tell me what it means.

Romans 13 - which is the apostle Paul telling men and women boys and girls, rich and poor, strong and weak, to submit to the Power of God - has been twisted into something it never said when "churchmen" say that Romans 13 commands men to obey those who have taken it upon themselves to define - or maybe better said - to REdefine what is good and what is evil.

Those who preach that present day reality of the King and His Kingdom - those who understand that All Bible Prophecy was fulfilled in the Christ in the first century - have NEVER taught that Romans 13 is anything other than the truth that it is - that God is commanded everyone to Submit to His King and His Kingdom.

Those who preach that present day reality of the King and His Kingdom - those who understand that All Bible Prophecy was fulfilled in the Christ in the first century - have NEVER taught that I Peter 2 is anything other than the truth that it is - that the King of verse 13 and verse 17 is Christ.

This is the message that John the Baptist preached. This is the message that Christ preached. This is the message that His followers preached after they saw His resurrection and finally understood what the Davidic Covenant of II Samuel 7 truly meant. This Jesus, this Yeshua whom ye crucified and hung on a cross, hath God made both Lord and Christ. He is the King. He is the Only Potentate.

Until we understand that He meant what He said,

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

[8] Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

[9] As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

[10] If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

[11] These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

When we finished last week from Acts 19, we had some yet unfinished business to discuss from that chapter. As I said earlier at the beginning of this message, spending one hour on the "end of the world" is about 1/100th of the amount we should have spent on it. The same is said about Acts 19.

Paul was preaching the Kingdom. The Greek word being *bassilia* - kingdom, reign, royalty. He was preaching that the King has a Kingdom. He was preaching that men leave their kingdoms and come into THE Kingdom.

I showed you how that the times the English word assembly was used in Acts 19 was used to describe the government of Ephesus at that time - and the Greek word used is *ecclesia*. We saw the word "churches" as in robbers of "churches" meaning the temple buildings of the false goddess Diana - and when the KJV translators translated *heironomous* - they used the word "churches." That did not come from the Greek word *ecclesia*. This is hugely important in understanding what Christ had started building and what Paul was preaching. He was preaching Kingdom, He was preaching Government. He was preaching that there is another King, One Jesus.

Acts 20 verse 1 is huge. It's immense teaching has to be discussed, look at this please:

And after the uproar was ceased, Paul called unto him the disciples, and embraced them, and departed for to go into Macedonia.

Paul's teaching that men were to come out of the government of Ephesus and into the Government of Christ had caused an uproar. Someone please tell me the last time preaching in a quote unquote "church" in America caused an uproar? You and I both know that what goes on inside the four walled buildings of a quote unquote "church" rarely ever makes it way into the streets of the cities.

Preach today that Christ is King. Live today that Christ is King. Come out from among them and be separate today - and see what type of uproar takes place. I'll assure you - in many ways, it will be the same as what was produced from the message of Paul in Acts 20.

Look at Acts 20: beginning in the end of verse 18, Paul says:

Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons,

[19] Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews:

[20] And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,

[21] Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

[22] And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

[23] Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

[24] But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

[25] And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.

[26] Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men.

[27] For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.

For some who might be resisting what I'm saying about how the people perceived Paul's message - in that he was calling people out of their governments and into God's Government - look at chapter 22, verse 27:

And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him, [28] Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place.

This is very similar to the accusations they brought against Christ when they accused Him of making terrorist threats against their government buildings.

In some ways, I can see how the people responded the way they did. In other ways, I don't want to give them a way out. The Jesus that Paul preached had performed many miracles, had been executed by the state and had risen from the dead. To me, it seems like it should have been easy for them to accept Him for Who He said He was.

Today, it seems like it should be easy for people to read the Scriptures and see that the prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus, in Yeshua and that He was the Christ and that now He is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

But we are up against huge false deceptions that have firmly entrenched themselves into every fabric of society. We must commit ourselves to teaching the truth, preaching the whole counsel of God as Paul did, preaching King and Kingdom as opposed to church, religion and men's governments.

There are some out there who have been listening to these messages and are confused still at what I am trying to say and why I am being so insistent and so forceful in relation

to the word "church." I had a brother write to me and say that the word "church" comes from kurios and kuriakon - which it does - then he went on to say that from there it went to ecclesia. But that is simply not correct. Kurios and kuriakon are both Greek words and yes, they produced historically - not correctly, the word "church." But in the Greek text - never - not one time ever - is the Greek word kurios or kuriakon translated as "church." It doesn't mean that. It means something that belongs to a lord or the Lord. The Greek kurios means lord. Through different pronunciations it devolved itself into "church." But it actually means lord. But through tradition, it is said that the English word "church" has come from kurios.

Kurios is the Greek word that most times in the English Bible is translated as Lord. It is never, not one time, even in the KJV, it is never translated as "church." Kuriakon is only found two times in the entire New Testament and it is not translated as "church." It's found I Corinthians 11:20 (*Lord's supper*) and Revelation 1:10 (*Lord's day*).

This brother has said to me, "It doesn't really make any difference because I know that the true "church" is the body of Christ." But the problem is that's what almost everyone believes the quote unquote "church" is. It's the body of Christ. Yeah, and when Catholics take communion at mass, they are told they are partaking in the quote "body of Christ." But this is not at all what the Scriptures mean by the "body of Christ." This is not at all what the Scriptures mean by the ecclesia of God.

Taking communion inside the four walls of a building somewhere is not building ecclesia.

What I am going to say to you in conclusion today is going to really challenge us. But it is true. Am I saying that it is wrong for a group of believers to come together in a building somewhere to sing songs, to hear the Word of God taught, to take up a collection to meet the needs of the fatherless and widows? Am I saying that? No I am not. I have never said that, never will. But this I will say. A building - whether it be a stand-alone building that people built for the purpose of a gathering place - or whether it be individual houses where people come to assemble - those places could be called "churches" or "church houses" or "church buildings" - but they are not ecclesias.

The ecclesia is the community of people who have been called out of the governments of men and into the Government of Christ. And if those people come together for the purpose of establishing the Government of Christ in their communities - they may meet in a "church house" to do so. But meeting in a "church house" without an ecclesia is strange fire. Sure, it may warm you. It may give you the warm and fuzzies - but it is strange fire - it is not of God. And this is where we are in America today.

We want to play "church" because as JN Darby said,

"What is this church? that word that has such charm in it; is it something from God,

and of God as it stands?"

Today, most people are perfectly willing and content to have "church" but they have no desire for ecclesia. Most people are perfectly willing and content to have a "saviour" but they have no desire for a King.

Just as a man cannot have Christ as Saviour if he will not have Christ as King - there can be no "church" without the ecclesia. We are fooling ourselves. We have allowed ourselves to be led astray by

Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;
[5] Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Hear a man try to tell you that the Laws of God have been replaced by the laws of men? Mark that man as a traitor. Hear a man tell you that God has ordained it that people obey men's governments and forsake His? Mark that man as a traitor. Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Lord willing, we'll be back next week to continue preaching King and Kingdom!