

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expositional Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew** 141- Divided Kingdoms and Plundering Satan's House

Church October 05, 2025

Matthew 12:22-32

22 Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man spoke and saw.

23 All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?"

24 But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons."

25 And knowing their thoughts Jesus said to them, "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand.

26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand?

27 If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? For this reason they will be your judges.

28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

29 Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

30 "He who is not with Me is against Me; and he who does not gather with Me scatters.

31 "Therefore I say to you, any sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit shall not be forgiven.

32 Whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Now as we have already found out- the Apostle Matthew (Heb. *Matityahu*) was the human Writer of the Book through which we are currently on a verse-by-verse “Journey”. And we have spent the last four Years covering eleven complete Chapters of the Birth; Life; and Ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ; and are now examining what God the Holy Spirit “moved” on this man to write in the twelfth.

And we have found out that Matthew was a former tax-collector, who *betrayed* his fellow-Jews by purchasing a tax License from the despised Romans- in order to impose *confiscatory* Taxes on them- in order to help finance Rome’s boot on the Jew’s neck. And so, when Jesus saved Matthew- he had a tremendous Burden to reach the Jewish people, that he genuinely loved, with the “Good News” (Gospel) of the eternal Redemption that can be found ONLY in the Lord Christ.

And Matthew’s Love for his fellow Jews was so strong that it even included the Way Matthew *physically* designed this Gospel Record to resemble the Five Books of Moses (Torah)!¹ EVERYTHING Matthew has in this Book- is designed on Purpose- to attract the average Jew of the 1st Century- to Salvation in Jesus- by *equating* Jesus with being:

- The long-awaited Messiah
- The promised “*Immanuel*” (God with us)
- The 2nd Moses

... and so, Matthew originally wrote this Book in the Hebrew language.²

And we have also found out that, *before* Salvation- Matthew was one of the single most despised man in all of Israel back in the 1st Century- because he was a tax-Collector. So, it is no Wonder that when Jesus was talking about “*Ex-communication*”- He said,

... and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. (Matthew 18:17b)

... and this has to do with what is called, “*Church Discipline*”.³

And Church Discipline is exercised ONLY on an Individual; who *professes* to be saved; who is a Member of a local Church; and who is now engaged in

¹ Matthew designed his Book (Scrolls) to have both an Introduction (Chapters 1-3) and an Ending (Chapters 26-28). But in between, Matthew divided this Book into Five major Sections of perfect Teaching from Jesus Himself- which the average Jew of the 1st Century would have immediately recognized. Section 1 (Chapters 4-7); Section 2 (Chapters 8-10); Section 3 (11-13); Section 4 (14-20); and Section 5 (21-25).

² The Church historian, *Eusebius* quoted an early Church leader, *Papias*, who said, “*Therefore, Matthew put the Logia [his Gospel Record] in an ordered arrangement in the Hebrew language...*”. *Irenaeus* wrote, “*Matthew also issued a written Gospel among the Hebrews in their own dialect...*”. And *Jerome* said, “*Matthew composed a Gospel of Christ at first published in Judea in Hebrew for the sake of those of the Circumcision [the Jews] who believed.*”

³ Matthew 18:15-17

blatant; public; and notorious Sin. And the Goal of Church Discipline is to help bring that Individual to a Place of genuine, Heart-felt Repentance.

But after that Person has categorically *rejected* three different Attempts at bringing him to Repentance- he is at the Point of being placed in the *fourth and final* Stage- where Jesus Himself said to treat him as two things:

1. Gentile
2. Tax-Collector

So, the Lord Christ *commands* His people to treat a person, who *refuses* to repent- as an “*Unbeliever*” (Gentile). In other words, by his *refusal* to repent of Behavior that is clearly condemned in Scripture as being Sinful- that person is acting like an unsaved pagan, who, because he has NEVER been exposed to the Word of God- seemingly doesn’t know that his Behavior *dishonors* God and is Sinful!

You see, when God gave the Law to Moses- the *primary* people who even knew about it and who struggled to obey it- were the Jews. The other “Nations of the World” were almost totally “*Gentile*”- in the sense that they didn’t know the Law of God and therefore, did NOT struggle to obey it. So, their Ignorance of the Word of God in the Old Testament Scriptures caused them to not even attempt to obey it.

So, when a person, who lays claim to be saved- *persists* in sinful Behavior- even after being *lovingly* confronted by people who genuinely care for his Soul- he is loudly testifying:

1. That he is Ignorant of both the Old and New Testament Scriptures- even as the Gentiles were concerning the Law
2. He has NO allegiance to the people of the Church and by his ongoing Sin- he is betraying the Christian Church and the people of God
3. That he is NOT saved- and doesn’t care if God is pleased with him

But our Lord Jesus also *commanded* His people to treat the person, who is engaged in evil Sin, and who *refuses* to repent, as a “tax-Collector”- meaning, by his refusal to repent- he has *betrayed* God’s people- as the tax-Collectors did in the 1st Century- and he is *tarnishing* the public Testimony of the “people of God” and the Church of Jesus- that he has already said he wanted to be a part of!

Now many people have asked me, “*Brother Blair, what Right do you have to cast someone out of the Church- simply because they did something you don’t approve of?*” But that’s the wrong Question. And so, my Response has several Components to it. “*First of all, it isn’t that they did something I don’t approve of.*

That person is engaged in what the Holy Bible calls, “blatant, public, and notorious Sin”! So, there is NO doubt that what he is doing- is sinful in the Eyes of God- according to the Scriptures! But secondly, he has refused to “turn away” (Repent) from that Sin- even though he has been first, lovingly confronted by an individual; and then by two or more individuals; and, then finally, by the entire Membership of the local Church! And yet, he persists in maintaining his sinful Behavior. But more importantly than all of that- this person says he is saved. And so, what Right does a person, (who has supposedly experienced the Miracle of the New Birth) have- to continue in Sin- even after being lovingly confronted and after being begged to stop?”

And so, this person, who *lays claim* to love Jesus, is engaged in Behavior that *dishonors* the Lord he says he loves. And yet- even though he *says* he is going to Heaven because he has *supposedly* been born again; justified; and adopted- WILL NOT repent- even after being confronted by his Brothers and Sisters! And so, by his *ongoing* Sin; AND because he *refuses* to repent- this person is acting like both a 1st Century “Gentile” as well as a “tax-collector”! And the sole “Head” of the Christian Church- right there in **Matthew 18:15-18**- the Lord Jesus Christ- has COMMANDED the people of the one, holy, universal, and apostolic Church to formally and officially *remove* that person from his holy “Communion” that he had with the Saints! That is what it means to “*ex-communicate*” someone.

And by the Way- that person, who has had the fourth and final Stage of Church Discipline exercised on him- is NOT simply excommunicated from that one, single local Church. He no longer has any “Communion” with the world-wide Church of Jesus!

But another Way to understand this Dynamic is found in verse 25, where our Lord said,

Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand.

Now I went over this last Time in great Detail- but the Context here is that the Pharisees were *blaspheming* the Holy Spirit and thus *eliminating* themselves from even the Possibility of being saved! Why? Because the Pharisees saw what nobody else in all of human History has ever seen. They saw *perfect* Teaching from a *sinless* Man! They saw a Man, who was *perfectly* Submissive and Obedient to His Father; and perfectly Empowered and Led by God the Holy Spirit! And that has NEVER happened before and will NEVER happen again- until Jesus returns to this earth! And yet, in their Darkness, those evil men said,

This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons.

So, while Jesus was operating on the earth- *perfectly*- demonstrating the very Power of the coming Kingdom of Heaven right in front of them- by saying this was done only...

... by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons

... those lost religious Hypocrites doomed themselves to an Eternity in Hell! But we can also see that Jesus was bringing two different Kingdoms into the Discussion:

1. The Kingdom of God
2. The Kingdom of satan

... or as Augustine put it 1700 years ago,

1. The City of God
2. The City of Man

... and by Jesus making the Distinction between satan and God and between the Kingdom in which satan operates and the Kingdom in which God operates- He was also drawing a clear "*Line in the Sand*" between the two Kingdoms.

And that is WHY Church Discipline exists! Our great God intends for His Church to be Pure and Holy and joyfully Submissive to the Authority of Scripture! And so, those who do NOT love God; those who only "say" they are saved- but lie; and those who have NO intention to strive to obey God in their normal, daily Lives- CANNOT remain Comfortable as "*Members in Name only!*" Either come and be a *vital* and *functioning* part of the Church- or be honest and admit you are Lost and tell Jesus you don't think He's Worthy of your Time; your Faithfulness; or your Obedience! But please "*fish or cut bait*"!

Contrary to what is commonly taught today- the Church of Jesus is NOT an "*Emergency Room for Sinners*". That is NOT what the Bible teaches. And the Church of the First Born should NOT operate in such a Way that affords Comfort to the lost Sinner. NO! Lost Sinners should be the MOST *uncomfortable* people of all when they attend a real, New Testament Church! Why? Because God the Holy Spirit should bring Conviction of Sin as they attend a real Church!

The Bible teaches that the Christian Church is ONLY for the saved- to come and worship the Lord Christ! And so, what goes on in the Church is to be conducted in such a Way that Jesus Christ Alone is Exalted; and saved people are

taught; edified; encouraged; and held Accountable to remain Faithful; Fruitful; and Busy in the Work of the Lord!

Because Almighty God intends to “make a Difference” or to “Separate” between those who are saved and who genuinely strive to obey God from those who are deceived and couldn’t care less. And this echoes what the Prophet heralded in **Ezekiel 22:26**:

Her priests have done violence to My law and have profaned My holy things; they have made no distinction between the holy and the profane, and they have not taught the difference between the unclean and the clean; and they hide their eyes from My sabbaths, and I am profaned among them.

... so, almost six Centuries BEFORE Jesus was born- Ezekiel was *empowered* by God the Holy Spirit to call the Jews to Repentance because their spiritual Leaders were no longer making a clear “**Distinction**” or a “Separation”: or a “Difference” between what was “*Holy*” and what was “*Profane*,” or what was “*Clean*” before God and what was “*Unclean*”! And this is what “*biblical Holiness*” IS! And God has called ALL genuine Believers to be “*Holy*”! The Apostle *infallibly* said this in **1Peter 1:15&16**:

but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."

... and this Holiness is pursued on Purpose- AFTER a person has already *experienced* the Miracle of the New Birth; AFTER he has already been Justified by Faith alone; and AFTER has already been adopted into the Family of God!

In other words, pursuing Holiness on purpose in the Way we live our normal, daily Lives- is the “Fruit” or the “Unmistakable Proof” that a person has, in fact, experienced the Miracle of the New Birth; that he has truly been forgiven and made Righteous (Justified); and that he has truly been adopted into the Family of God- and is NOT simply *deceived* about himself!

But biblical Holiness is NOT about being “*Sinless*”. Sinlessness or being “*morally Perfect*” is what “*Righteousness*” is. “*Holiness*” is about being “*Set apart*”; or being Distinct; Different; or Unlike others- so you can be used by God- for His Glory!

Now under the “*Old*” or the “*First Covenant*”- biblical Holiness *included* what people ate; how they dressed; keeping Feast Days; and their Relationship with both the Levitical Priesthood as well as the Sanhedrin Court! But under the infinitely superior New Covenant- biblical Holiness attaches to the *moral outward*

Behavior of Believers as well as the *internal* Disposition of the Heart- that is *behind* that Behavior and that *motivates* it!

For Example, in Jesus' perfect Sermon on the Mount- our Lord told us that it wasn't enough that we simply didn't murder other people. But under the auspices of the New Covenant- we are NOT allowed to hate anyone! It isn't enough that we don't steal- we MUST give! And it isn't enough that we simply don't engage in the Act of physical Adultery- we must NOT look and lust!

So, we have to understand that the New Birth highlights the Reality that there are two different Kingdoms!

1. The Kingdom of satan
2. The Kingdom of Heaven (God)

... and those two Kingdoms CANNOT be joined together!

And so, in the truest sense of the phrase, it is "EITHER" - "OR"! You are EITHER in the Kingdom of Heaven OR you are in the Kingdom of satan!

In other words, since the miraculous Transformation of the human Nature in the Miracle of the New Birth is a *sovereign* and *invisible* Act- that CANNOT be seen by the naked eye- it is in the *relentless* and *joyful and purposeful* "Pursuit of Holiness" in our normal, every-day Behavior- (as well as the Motivation *behind* the Behavior)- that determines which Kingdom an individual belongs in!

Another Way of understanding this is found in what Jesus said in **John 15: 1-8:**

1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit.

3 You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you.

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

8 My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples.

The Goal of God in Salvation is that ALL who are saved have been gloriously delivered OUT from satan's Kingdom- the Kingdom of Darkness and have been sovereignly; powerfully, miraculously; supernaturally; and eternally brought into the Kingdom of Heaven (God)! This is how the Apostle put it in **1Peter 2:9&10:**

9 But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

So, those who “*abide in Jesus*”; those who “*bear godly Fruit*”- that remains and that grows ever stronger; those who “proclaim the Excellencies of God” are those who have been sovereignly and effectually CALLED out of Darkness (the Kingdom of satan) and have been CALLED into the marvelous Light of God (the Kingdom of Heaven and God)!

And the Individual DOESN'T have to argue about it; he DOESN'T have to protest; or shout or insist! The Fruit he bears- is ALL the Proof he needs! Because he is either bearing that godly Fruit- or he isn't! And the godly Fruit he bears is either *remaining* (persevering) or it isn't! And that Fruit is either *multiplying* – or it isn't!

And if that person bears godly Fruit that both remains and multiplies- he is *part* of the Kingdom of Heaven- no matter what *anybody else* says! But if it doesn't- than that person is yet “in his Sins” and he is a part of the Kingdom of satan (Darkness)- no matter what *he* says!

And so, it is the “*unmistakable Proof*” or the “*bearing of godly Fruit*” that is brought about through the sovereign Act of transforming the human Nature- from each person who genuinely experiences the Miracle of the New Birth- that determines which Kingdom each one of us is a part of! And God is determined to make that Distinction crystal Clear! So, look what Jesus said,

25 ... Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself will not stand.

26 If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then will his kingdom stand?

27 If I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? For this reason they will be your judges.

28 But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

So, 2,000 years ago, the Kingdom of God came upon those people in Israel through the perfect, sinless, and pristine Birth; Life; Ministry; Death; and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. And those who *embraced* Jesus; those who *repented* of Sin; and *believed* He was God in human Flesh- entered that Kingdom at that very Moment!

And since that Time- the Kingdom of God has been growing; and getting larger; and touching more people; in more Countries; around the entire world!

And so, in one sense, the Kingdom of God has ALREADY come! But in another sense- it is YET to come! And so, we should understand the Kingdom of God as being *both* “ALREADY” and “NOT YET”! And this is what Theologians call, the “*Dialectic of Present and Future*”; or “*Inaugurated Eschatology*”. And look, I realize those are “*three-dollar words*”- but let me show you what I mean.

In **Romans 8:15**- the Bible says we have ALREADY been adopted by Christ into God’s Family by virtue of having ALREADY experienced the New Birth; and Justification! Yet in **Romans 8:23**- that same Apostle; in that same Chapter; of that same Book- was “moved” by God the Holy Spirit to say that there is “YET TO COME” the FULLNESS of that Adoption! In **Ephesians 1:7**- the Holy Bible says we have ALREADY been redeemed in Jesus Christ! And yet, in **Ephesians 4:30**- it says that the FULLNESS of our Redemption is “NOT YET”- but is in the Future! We have ALREADY been sanctified in Jesus Christ- according to **1Corinthians 1:2**! And yet, **1Thessalonians 5:23&24** says we have NOT YET been FULLY sanctified! We are saved ALREADY (**Ephesians 2:8**) and NOT YET FULLY saved (**Romans 5:9**)! And we have ALREADY been “raised with Christ” (**Ephesians 2:6**) and yet, we are NOT YET FULLY “raised”- until the Resurrection (**1Corinthians 15:52**)! This is what the Bible means when it talks about the “ALREADY” and “NOT YET” sense of the Reality of the Kingdom of God!

Unworthy Sinners are truly and fully saved; and truly and fully a part of God’s Kingdom; at the very Moment they experience the Miracle of the New Birth; are Forgiven and made Righteous (Justification); and adopted into God’s Family! And so, in the “ALREADY” sense of the Kingdom- those people are *already* a part of it.

Yet those people still live on this Sin-cursed earth; they still struggle against the Lusts of their fallen Flesh; and so, they still sin against God. And so, even though a full part of the Kingdom of God- they have “NOT YET” realized the FULLNESS of that Kingdom; and

they WILL NOT realize the Fullness of the Kingdom- until Jesus Returns!

But because those born- again Believers are *fully and truly* a part of God's Kingdom ALREADY in that sense- they now love; and adore; and fear; and delight themselves in the Lord! And so, those people live their Lives for one single Purpose and Goal- so that through how they Live and how they Talk; and how they Believe- God alone will be glorified; and they will receive the FULLNESS of their own JOY- in God alone being glorified!

But talk is Cheap- and *anyone* can "say" those words! *Anybody can claim* they love God and *say* they are ALREADY a part of His Kingdom! So, in his Wisdom- the Apostle Matthew gave us Jesus' "*Parable of the Wheat and the Tares*" in **Matthew 13**. And in that Parable- we find that the Bible says there exists something called, "*Tares*"- which, looks a lot like real Wheat!

But the Bible also says there exists genuine "Wheat"! So, the Tares are the *false* Converts, who are *physically* in the Church- but who have NEVER experienced the Miracle of the New Birth! And those religious but unsaved people live every Moment of their Lives in the Kingdom of satan!

Yet we are told to NOT remove the Tares- lest we root up the genuine Wheat along with them! And so, we MUST allow God to send the Angels to *remove* the Tares from the earth. Now it won't be long and we will be in **Matthew 13**- and I will get into this Parable in great Detail- but as a Preview- I want you to look at a single verse and read what Jesus Himself said about removing the Tares:

Matthew 13:30

Allow both [Tares and Wheat] to grow together until the harvest [the End of the Age]; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers [the Angels], "First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but gather the wheat into my barn."

So, because God is interested in redeeming the earth itself- even as He is interested in redeeming our fleshly Bodies- God is going to sovereignly *allow* the *counterfeit* Tares to grow right alongside of the *genuine* Wheat- during the entire Time Jesus "*Reigns*" in His Kingdom that is ALREADY HERE! And that long, protracted "*Reign*" of Jesus- is called the "*Church Age*"! And it is when Jesus *reigns supremely* over every Aspect of His Church on the earth- BEFORE He returns! And this is what the "*Parable of the Mustard Seed*" (**Matthew 13**) was telling us. So, the "*Church Age*"- the Time where Jesus reigns *supremely* over the part of the Kingdom that is ALREADY HERE- is now a few years into its 3rd Millennial!

And that means that the part of the Kingdom- that is ALREADY HERE- that is now over 2,000 years old- *continues* this Morning! And Jesus ALREADY has

ALL Authority in both Heaven and Earth (**Matthew 28:18**)! And so, IN THAT SENSE- Jesus is ALREADY ruling and reigning! And IN THAT SENSE- satan is ALREADY “locked up”! And so, even though satan fights- he CANNOT defeat the Church- as they PLUNDER his House!

And so, IN THAT SENSE of the Kingdom that is ALREADY here- we see that the Apostle John was used in **The Revelation 20**- to *symbolically* term this ALREADY HERE Kingdom (the Church Age); over which Jesus is ALREADY “ruling and reigning”; and where- satan is ALREADY “locked up” as: “**1,000 years**”! But that is simply a *symbolic* Term- that was *commonly* used to denote “**a very long period of Time!**”⁴

So, please notice that when God sends the Angels (the Reapers) to remove the Tares from His Kingdom- He does that FIRST! And so, *contrary* to what is usually taught today- the Holy Bible declares that the FIRST people, who will leave this earth- are the Tares and NOT the genuine Wheat! And so, in **Matthew 24:40&41**- when Jesus said,

Then there will be two men in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding at the mill; one will be taken and one will be left.

... the one who will be “*taken*” FIRST- is the *false* Convert- or the “*Tare*”- whom the Angels will *forcibly* remove from the earth FIRST!

And so, those people, who, are genuinely ALREADY a part of God’s Kingdom- seek to possess unmistakable Proof of their Salvation; their Citizenship in the Kingdom; and their Love for Jesus- by striving to obey what He said! Because Jesus Himself said:

If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. (John 14:15)

... and ...

Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? (Luke 6:46)

Now this shouldn’t have to be said- but because of the *enormous* amount of very *lazy* and *false* Teaching- we need to remember that there is NO Salvation; NO New Birth; NO Citizenship in the Kingdom of God- without an honest and ongoing Effort to obey the “*Apostle’s Teaching*” found in the 27 Books of the New Testament!

⁴ The ancient Jews had NO word or number that extended past 1,000! And so, in many other Books that were published at that time- any Designation about any Subject- lasting a long period of time- was said to be “*1,000 years!*” That phrase was also commonly used in Latin during the Roman Empire and even in English until about the middle of the 20th Century.

So, Obedience to God AFTER a person has experienced the Miracle of the New Birth; AFTER he has been forgiven of ALL Sin and made Righteous (Justified); and AFTER he has been adopted into the Family of God- is the SAME THING as:

- Loving Jesus
- Following Jesus
- Bearing godly Fruit
- Walking in the Spirit
- Glorifying God

... precisely because *humble and joyful* Obedience to God is the ONLY Way we have in this Life- that *proves* our Love for God.

And as those, who are genuinely in the ALREADY part of the Kingdom struggle to obey God- they *change* the Way they live their normal, daily Lives. And that Change *includes*:

- How they think about and use Money
- How they raise their Children
- How they interact with other people
- How they Vote
- How they understand Government and other Nations
- How Husbands love their Wives and “order their Homes”
- How Wives Respect their Husbands
- How we operate our Businesses
- How we rule- when elected to political Offices

... and this ongoing Struggle to obey- *creates* the great Distinction; the Divide; and the Separation between themselves and those who live and operate in the Kingdom of satan! And this is what “*biblical Holiness*” looks like under the New Covenant! And it also explains the “*Great Divide*” that we see in our Country right now. Because there is NO “*Common Ground*” between the two Kingdoms! And that is why the Apostle Paul was “moved” by God the Holy Spirit to write this in **2Corinthians 6:14-18:**

14 Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?
15 Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?
16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND

WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.

17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; And I will welcome you.

18 "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty.

And each of those two Kingdoms has a Logic; a Terminology; a Manner of Life; a Form of Thinking; and certain Qualities that are unique to that Kingdom.

So, even though people from both Kingdoms can *verbally* communicate and even live in some form of “*general Harmony*” with each other- nevertheless- there is NO Way to find any “deep-seated” or “lasting Commonality” between the two Kingdoms! They are as Different as Night is from Day! The Kingdom of satan promotes what is Good for Self; Sin; and Darkness; while the Kingdom of Heaven; or the Kingdom of God promotes whatever glorifies God and exalts Jesus Christ!

And so, the people of those two Kingdoms are UNABLE to EVER be joined together in any form of true or lasting Agreement! And every single human being who lives now, who has ever lived; and who will live at some point in the Future- is a part of one of those two Kingdoms!

The Bible teaches that every single human being, who is born of Woman, *automatically* belongs to the “*Kingdom of satan*”- by virtue of his *natural* Birth! The Truth about the “*Fall of Adam*” in the Garden and the Truth about “*Original Sin*”- is what CAUSES each person to be a Member of the “Kingdom of satan”. But ONLY those who have personally *experienced* the Miracle of the New Birth are Members of the Kingdom of Heaven (God)! Now please look again at **Matthew 12:29:**

Or how can anyone enter the strong man's house and carry off his property, unless he first binds the strong man? And then he will plunder his house.

Now those of us who read and study the Bible realize that there are times when God sovereignly *allows* wicked and unsaved men to rise up and accumulate Power- political; military; even religious Power. In other words, because God is Sovereign- He uses people, who are in the Kingdom of satan to help those who live in the Kingdom of God! So, even though God uses them- it does NOT mean that those people are saved- it simply means that God chose to use them for His own Purposes- at that Time! The Old Testament is filled with many Accounts of God allowing very evil men to become King over his own people.

And History teaches us that this also happens outside of the Nation of Israel and even in the Church!

And that is why Theologians coined another couple of phrases to help us understand this Dynamic:

1. The *visible* Church
2. The *invisible* Church

The “visible” Church is ALL those who “say” they are saved; and who “say” they are a part of the ALREADY Kingdom of God! So, the visible Church would contain BOTH the Tares as well as the Wheat.

The “invisible” Church is ONLY the genuine Believer; who has truly experienced the Miracle of the New Birth; they have had ALL their Sins forgiven and have been made “fit for Heaven”; and it is ALL who genuinely belong in the ALREADY Kingdom of God!

Now there was a Time in Church History when a certain Family in France bought and paid for their handpicked man to take control of the “*visible Church*” at that Time. So, over 700 years ago, Raymond Bertrand de Got- a man, who was NOT saved; a man, who was a part of the Kingdom of satan sinned and blackmailed and extorted and connived and lied his Way into being the Pope of Rome for about nine long years (1305-1314). And when he took control- with the help of that French Family- he took the Name, “*Pope Clement V*”

Along with ordering the “*Crusade of the Poor*” (1309)- which did very little besides persecuting and murdering many Jews- Clement V’s rule is basically known as the Time when many of the “*Knights Templar*” were arrested and killed.

But in the Providence of God- there arose a great Question concerning the very verse that we are looking at. And even though this man was very evil and Wicked- God used Clement V to be the man who first discussed the Role of the Christian Church as it pertained to the Kingdom of satan as well as the other sinful and unchristian Institutions and even Nations that stood against Jesus and His Church. And so, Clement V said that the Church of Jesus is...

“The Church *Militant*” (Latin: *Ecclesia militans*)

... in the Sense of the genuinely saved people, who made up the invisible Church being “*Pilgrims and Strangers*” as well as “*Soldiers*” on this earth; constantly warring against our own individual Sin and the Results of Sin.

So, as long as Jesus tarries and the Church operates in the ALREADY HERE Kingdom (the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ during the Church Age)- it is to “do

battle” against Sin and Compromise and false Teaching and to faithfully fight in a “perpetual War” against the Kingdom of satan. And this agrees with Scripture!

But we have to understand that Sin and Evil and Wickedness is NOT going to bring Jesus back to this earth. What is going to bring Jesus back- was told to us by King David- way back in **Psalm 110:1**- when he was “moved” by God the Holy Spirit to infallibly write:

A Psalm of David. The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”

... so, Jesus is going to *continue* to reign *supremely* in ALL Authority in both Heaven and earth at the “*Right Hand*” of God the Father- UNTIL! So, Jesus is NOT coming back- UNTIL something happens:

Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.”

So, the “*Church Militant*” will *continue* its “*Battle Plan*” against Sin and satan’s Kingdom- UNTIL the enemies of God are made to bow before King Jesus! And then the Church will become the “*Church Triumphant*”!

So, as the “*Church Militant*”- we are to recognize from verse 29- that satan is the “**Strong man**”. His “**House**” is the kingdom over which he rules and reigns. And the souls of men, who have been chosen by God for Salvation are the “**Property**” of verse 29; while the “**Binding**” of that Strong man (satan) is the Job of God the Holy Spirit as the Gospel is heralded!

So, those of us, who operate in the ALREADY HERE concept of the Kingdom of God- are to humbly and joyfully yield and submit and obey God and “**Go into all the World and preach the Gospel to every Creature!**” And satan will be “**Bound**” like **The Revelation 20:2** says⁵ as we march as “*Soldiers of the Cross*” right into satan’s Kingdom (**House**); and rob; steal; or “**plunder**” his “**Property**”! And so, by faithfully fighting as “*submitted Soldiers*” (Preaching the Gospel and living a holy Life); God will use us to *deliver* those souls out from the kingdom of Darkness (satan) and bring them into God’s marvelous Light!

And those new Converts to Jesus will then join with us as Citizens of the ALREADY HERE Kingdom of God- awaiting the Return of Jesus and the FULLNESS of the Kingdom!

Amen! Let’s pray.

⁵ Satan is NOT “bound” *totally* nor *permanently* during the Church Age. The “binding” of satan in **The Revelation 20:2** has to do with satan being unable to *ultimately* prevent ANY of those chosen by God for Salvation from coming to the Lord! So, while he WILL fight against and hinder; and while the Expansion of the Kingdom of God will NOT come easy- satan is *predestined* to lose! And so, in that sense he is “bound”.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your Pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God ALONE!