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ANNOUNCEMENT FROM TRINITY CHURCH  
**A GLORIOUS D E B T F R E E FELLOWSHIP**  
 Sin debt paid in A.D. 33    Mortgage paid in 1988  
**FEBRUARY 2nd & 3rd at 7:00pm - Sun. 4th at 10:00am**  
 phone numbers: (916) 722-8855 or, Pastor 989-401  
 EVANGELIST JUSTIN BURKS, PASTOR OF PALMDALE MBC

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## THE REIGN OF GOD

(ITS PRESENT JOY)

**The LORD GOD has never relinquished His reign over the earth. "The nations made an uproar, the kingdoms tottered; He raised His voice, the earth melted," Ps 46:6. Mountains are moved and kingdoms destroyed WHENEVER He decrees. But, God so loves the world that He desires fellowship with man, the crown of His creation "Thou dost make him to rule over the works of Thy hands" (Ps 8:6).**

God is not slack concerning His promise, either (2 Pe. 3:9). From the very moment of the Fall, recorded in Genesis, the LORD has been unfolding His plan through man - set "before the foundation (laying down) of the world," (Mt 25:34). Before the creation, the plan was all finished and drawn up within His Son, Jesus Christ. At Calvary, Jesus ratified the plan by shedding His blood.

My understanding of God's plan causes chills to come all over me. What joy! Imagine, God actually uses man to bring about His will and, further, it is in man that fellowship is restored between the two; even tho' Jesus is no ordinary man.

Nevertheless, the wonderful thought remains, the LORD has not given up on mankind. In the beginning, God started with one man, which means that everyone of us is related to one another. Clearly, God's intention is to finish His plan with one man, as well; even tho' Jesus is no ordinary man.

Dealing with man this time, God is "bringing many sons to glory" (Heb 2:10), by perfecting the author of salvation through suffering, v 10. Jesus will "taste death for everyone," v 9. The result is that, in Jesus, both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one, v 11. What we have here, is a relationship that exists between God and His creation; which, is inseparable!

Within His creating mankind, and through pro-creation or, natural birth, everyone is related to the first man, Adam. It's the same within the Spiritual realm. A spiritual birth/cause makes everyone related to the Second Adam. Our cousins may be removed to the 10th power; nonetheless, man is related to the next man, if we go back far enough.

This kind of thinking about the history of man sheds a lot of light upon God and His plan. For He, not only choose man to reign over His Kingdom, the LORD oversees the plan, making sure it never changes. There is no room for evolution. It's the same plan, from Genesis to Revelation; which is, "His will be done in earth, as it is in Heaven," Mt 6:10.

However, we get more revelation about God's will, by studying Abraham, who is the father of faith. And, more chill bumps come, when we realize that God offers the same deal to everyone that was offered to Abraham. To be "heir of the world" was God's promise to Abraham (Ge 15:18). This is promise that Jesus confirmed on the cross. The inheritance, then, is for those who are of the same faith as Abraham, (See Romans 4:16; Galatians 3 & Heb 11:40).

God's plan is for man and, therefore it is a "Manly Plan of Reign." It's not an angelic reign, but the reign of Man, as he inherits the earth (Mt 5:5). But, if the plan is to get off the ground, man has to get out of the ground. He needs help from His Creator to raise him up and sustain him. Jesus is no ordinary man.

Therefore, in eternity, Jesus, the Second Person of the God Head, willingly agreed to leave His spiritual habitation - one which, He alone, enjoyed with His Father. And, here, I feel more chill bumps. Jesus relinquished His Oneness with the Father, FOREVER; not just for 34 years; but, FOREVER. He did so, in order that we (you and me) might become like Him.

Jesus did not leave heaven for just a little while, live on the earth for 34 years and, then return to the same place and take up the same relationship He had with His Father, beforehand. Jesus left it all, FOREVER; so that we could have what John wrote, "...it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is," 1st John 3:2.

That's what the New Creation is all about; that is, God reigning within flesh bodies. Soon, Jesus, the Supreme Ruler and Head, will take His Bride in marriage and, once again, man is given authority over God's creation. This time, forever (See Rev. 19:7-10).

It is fitting that Jesus reigns. He deserves the right, as a man, to do so. He purchased us, reconciling us back to God, by entering this creation, according to John 1:1, 14. Secondly, Jesus purchased a people for the LORD; which, we think, is the meaning of Acts 20:28. The church is all that Jesus came to do in saving man. Not only did He die for man, He also, purchased His Church for continued fellowship. In His people, the church, God receives glory from an assembled people - "The body of Christ," who honor their Head (See Eph 3:21).

The truth is, He left all of God's glory, so we could be like Him. That, my good buddy, includes us (you and me). While, I don't think I'm the only one who experiences this magnificent feeling of awe, brought on by grace; but, anyone who feels the chill bumps, knows that it goes far beyond mere academics. It's likened to being saved all over again; or, to say it another way - IT IS A PRESENT JOY OF THE SALVATION WE HAVE - GOD RULING OUR HEARTS.

This joy is so heavenly, it cannot be uttered; nor can exceeding words, written by man, capture the sense of our joy. Even "Articles of Faith;" which, define what we believe, come up short. One has to experience the meaning of THE REIGN OF GOD for himself and, then try to express it, if not in words, certainly, by actions.

Of course, we must have Scripture supporting our sensations of joy. All true spiritual feelings will be built upon the foundation of Christ, Himself. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water,'" John 7:38.

All great feelings about Jesus and the Reign of God, comes down to the truth; which, offers a basis for our joy. "Articles of Faith" may serve as important boons for such joy; but this kind of elation over what God has done, comes only from the Holy Spirit. "But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive," v 39.

When the Holy Spirit introduces truth to our faith, a holy and heavenly joy fills the entire place; whether, Tabernacle, Temple or, within the being of a believer. When this occurs, whether rich or poor, we never "go away sorrowful." I think we need to see here, that "The Reign of God," places believers within the meaning of the verse of John 1:14.

Although, it is seen in a much lesser degree, it is much like John 1:14. For, just as "...the Word became flesh," so the word enters our hearts when we eat the flesh of the Son of God (see Jn 6:51). Ingesting Jesus means taking the Word into our hearts, by belief. With all our heart, mind and soul, we trust in Him

to give us life. We are dying and cry out for that bread of life. Once we eat, there is such sweetness, that the world "Grow Strangely Dim," as the hymn goes.

Believers are to be aware that opposition rises in any reign. Times of sin will come, when we feel that Nathan's finger is pointing directly at us, proclaiming, "You are the one." Therein, no matter the pain, comes the joy of God's reign over us, still - working within us. When we sin, we are made to realize that man still needs help from His Creator.

In God's plan, we see that He has chosen two - God and man, for fulfillment; that is, if man is to reign, at all. Therefore, it is a plan for man, but it is God's plan for man; and nothing else will work. Our feelings must match God's feeling. "Thus saith, The Lord" must direct our hearts.

The joy of reigning brings a glorious feeling of verification from the Scriptures. And, we check the Bible often, to know what Jesus taught. First, there is joy within ourselves, as we overcome our own thoughts and intents and receive His commandments. Secondly, there is a universal joy that floods our soul, as we contemplate the Reign of God covering the entire world. No more idiots. No more sin! No more death! "Let the nations, REJOICE!"

Universal joy is one of the promises given to the churches of Asia, in Revelation. But, before we pick up the rod of iron and rule the nations, we must "hold fast our confidence and the boast of our hope firm until the end," Heb 3:6. Before we are fitted for the crown of life, we must be "fit for the kingdom," by taking hold of the plow and not looking back (Lk 9:62).

Without question, the Day of the Lord will be joyous for all servants of God. But, what is needed for God's people, in the here and now, is to walk within that joy. Our life ought to be full of spiritual expectations from the LORD, on a daily basis. Children of the kingdom (*of the day and light*) have that joy living within them, every day. In spirit, they live, presently, within the kingdom.

The Greek text has two words for children. *Teknon* speaks of a born one; while, *huois* refers to a son. And, a spiritual distinction may be applied when referring these words.

For example, Paul explains that Abraham had two wives, which represents the two covenants. The son of the bondwoman (Hagar) could not be an heir with the son of the free woman (Sarah). Because of strict teaching about being prepared for the day of the Lord, we see these boys; not as saved and lost, but as recipients of what each covenant granted to them. Simply, and years before the Law was given, Hagar represents the Old Covenant; while, Sarah represents heavenly Jerusalem. The New Covenant brings God's inheritance but, in the next generation, we have Esau and Jacob. The same mother; yet, a loss of the FIRST BORN RIGHT is brought to the fore front; a prominent theme within God's plan.

In this manner, we see how God uses men to carry out His will. Jesus said, "Not everyone who says, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven," Mt 7:21.

Inheriting the kingdom requires discipline within The Reign of God. Sometimes, God chastens. And, for a moment, it isn't joyous. But, whom He loves, He chastens (Heb 12:6; Prov 3:12). That's the reason we are to look intently into the Bible, the perfect law of liberty, and abide by it, James teaches in 1:25.

In God's Reign, we cannot forget about the church that Christ established and instructed. We are to, "hear what the Spirit says unto the churches" (Rev 2:11). And, according to 1st Corinthians 11:32, heeding what the Spirit says is profitable for us. "When we are judged, we are disciplined by the LORD in order that we may not be condemned along with the world."

God's reign is a peaceful sway over His people; from which, comes our present joy. And, for this Pastor, I desire that each church member see Paul's sentiment in his letter to the Thessalonians. "For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our LORD Jesus at His coming? For you are our glory and joy," 1st Thessalonians 2:19, 20.