

Section Three: The Kingdom of God on Earth (Future)

Category C: Millennium – Kingdom Intelligence Report #6

Topic: Confidence

In every generation of the Christian faith, it has been essential for followers of our Savior to be possessed with a sense of confidence, not in ourselves, but in the Lord; a distinction which the Apostle Paul establishes so powerfully in Philippians 3:1-8; 4:10-13. Jesus Christ possessed this high degree of confidence in fulfilling the purpose of God. So much so, that when He taught the Word of God to others, the response was one of amazement, in that His teaching was ministered to others with such overwhelming authority (Matthew 7:28-29). When Peter and John were being interrogated by the religious leaders of Jerusalem for their teaching ministry, those rulers also noticed their sense of confidence, which was derived from their three years of discipleship, in having been with Jesus (Acts 4:13).

What was true at the beginning, must also be true at the end! As Christians living in these last days, it is just as essential for us, if we are to be used of God to make an impact upon our world, to possess that same degree of confidence in our Savior, in God's Word, and in His purpose for our lives. How can that confidence exist in any of us when we are filled with doubt about God's plan for our lives as individuals and our world as a whole? That doubt has arisen and exists in far too many Christians currently, due to a departure from the teaching of sound doctrine. This, in turn, has caused the proclamation of the Christian faith, "which was once for all handed down to the saints," to deteriorate into a confusing and splintered "free-for-all." This is not what Jude had in mind when he exhorted Christians to "contend earnestly for the faith."

In our study, I have sought to fulfill the above admonition in Jude 3, by clarifying the confusion and chaos engulfing Bible prophecy. If a proper understanding of Jesus' Second Coming is critical for possessing a sense of confidence and urgency, in order to impact our lost world with the gospel of Christ, then I hope this analysis has been beneficial in establishing such a mindset in each of you. But I can't end this discussion of Christian confidence without elaborating on one final point: "The Lord's Prayer." As taught to us by our Savior in Matthew 6:9-15, the obvious question in need of an answer involves what Jesus meant when He told us to pray:

"Your Kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

I have come to an interpretive conclusion of my own in regard to what Jesus really meant when He specifically told us to pray in this way. I am confident about the correctness of my point of view, since it is derived directly from the inspired and infallible testimony of God's Word; consisting of John's response to Christ's promise regarding His return, in Revelation 22:20-21 –

"He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes, I am coming quickly.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus."

John responded to the promise of Jesus' return by praying, "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus." He knew that the coming of Christ would be the only way God's Kingdom would "come" to exist on earth, as it is in heaven. Yet Dominionists are telling Him and us, "No way! No need! WE have got this!" As a follower of your Savior, you will need to decide for yourself as to how you will respond, in these last days, to the promise of His return. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen.