



Living in the Blessedness of the Reality of the Kingdom of God by Being Poor in Spirit and Pure in Heart

by Ed Marks

The entire New Testament reveals that Christ is the desire of God's heart. God's heart's desire is that every person, every matter, and every thing in the universe would express Christ by being headed up in Christ (Eph. 1:10). When Christ enters into us through our faith in Him, He wants to be everything to us—our life, our life supply, our living, our expression, our joy, our reward, our goal, and our expectation (Col. 3:4; John 4:10, 14; 6:35; Phil. 1:20-21; Psa. 43:4; Rom. 14:17; John 15:11; Gen. 15:1; Phil. 3:14, 20-21). The Gospels are a fourfold biography of this wonderful Christ who dwells within every regenerated believer. In Matthew He is the King-Savior; in Mark, the Slave-Savior; in Luke, the Man-Savior; and in John, the God-Savior. We especially need to see, realize, and experience Christ as the King-Savior so that we may live in the blessedness of the reality of the kingdom of God.

The kingdom of God, which is God's heavenly rule within His people, is actually Christ Himself.

When He was questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, Behold, here it is! or, There! For behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you. (Luke 17:20-21)

Because the Lord was in the midst of the Pharisees, the kingdom of God was in their midst. In prophesying concerning the coming Christ as the reality of God's kingdom, Isaiah said,

Indeed a King will reign according to righteousness,... / And a man will be like a refuge from the wind / And a covering from the tempest, / Like streams of water in a dry place, / Like the shadow of a massive rock in a wasted land. (32:1-2)

Christ our King is not only the complete God but also the perfect man. When we take this God-man as our King and allow Him to reign within us, He becomes our sure refuge and covering from the storms of daily life, our pure water of life in the dissatisfied world, and our protective hiding place in the desert wasteland of human existence.

If we are filled with the ruling presence of Christ as our King-Savior, we will enter into the principles of living in the reality of the kingdom revealed in Matthew 5 through 7. These principles are impossible for us to live by in our natural life, but thank the Lord that what is impossible with man is possible with God (Mark 10:27). The King-Savior as the ruling life in our spirit is the highest supply to meet these highest demands. It is important to realize that the Christ who dwells in us is our ruling life. He wants to be our Ruler, our Lord. We must take note that it is *the Lord* who is with our spirit (2 Tim. 4:22) and that Christ died and rose from the dead *that He might be Lord* (Rom. 14:8-9). When we receive the Lord as our life and Savior, He dwells in us as our King-Savior, and He wants us to take Him as our King in all the areas of our daily life and service to Him in the gospel. He wants us to be His kingdom people, those who are filled and blessed with His ruling presence so that we know the joy of being under His heavenly rule. The kingdom of God is Christ as righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (v. 17).

A. B. Simpson expressed the joy of living and working together with Christ as our King in a wonderful hymn, the basis of which is 1 Chronicles 4:23, which says, "They dwelt...with the king for his work." The king here is David, and in the New Testament Christ is the Lord of David, the Son of David, the Root of David, the Offspring of David, and the real and greater David (Matt. 12:2-4; 22:41-46; Rev. 22:16). We dwell with our real King David, Christ, for His work to spread His kingdom